

Clarke stands firm as bitterness grows over 999 dispute

By Philip Webster and Tim Jones

Amid intensifying political bitterness the Government responded to yesterday's day of action in support of the ambulance workers with a determined refusal to budge from its final pay offer.

The unions also gave no sign of ending their 20-week dispute. Mr Roger Poole, the chief negotiator, claimed that, in a display of "people power", hundreds of thousands of people had taken part in 15-minute rallies though some sources doubted that that many had participated.

In the Commons, after a short Commons debate initiated by Mr Robin Cook, the Labour health spokesman, MPs rejected by an 81-vote majority a Bill to bring in a pay mechanism for ambulance staff similar to that enjoyed by other emergency workers.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, had dismissed the day of action as a "pointless" exercise that would have little bearing on the outcome of the dispute. The Prime Minister accused the ambulance staff of refusing to move in response to shifts by both the Government and

the management. Mr Clarke underlined that there was no new money available. "Demos of this kind, people power and the threat of strike ballots... do not alter the underlying merits of the case which should be talked about sensibly," he said.

He accused the unions of pursuing an "excessive" claim and said the day of action was a "publicity-seeking" exercise.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, accused Mrs Margaret Thatcher of being "completely out of touch with the feelings of the British people."

Labour MPs demonstrated their solidarity with the ambulance workers by leaving Commons committees for 15 minutes.

Mr Robert MacLennan, of the Liberal Democrats, accused Mrs Thatcher of dogged inflexibility. "What greater catastrophe is required to bring home to you the justice of our ambulancemen's case?" he demanded.

Mr Kinnock asked for her response to the statement made by church leaders appealing for the Government to set up an independent inquiry with the aim of resolv-

ing the ambulance dispute. Mrs Thatcher said: "There is already a negotiating body, which is the right body to do the negotiations."

The increased management offer would cost the taxpayer £6 million more during this financial year.

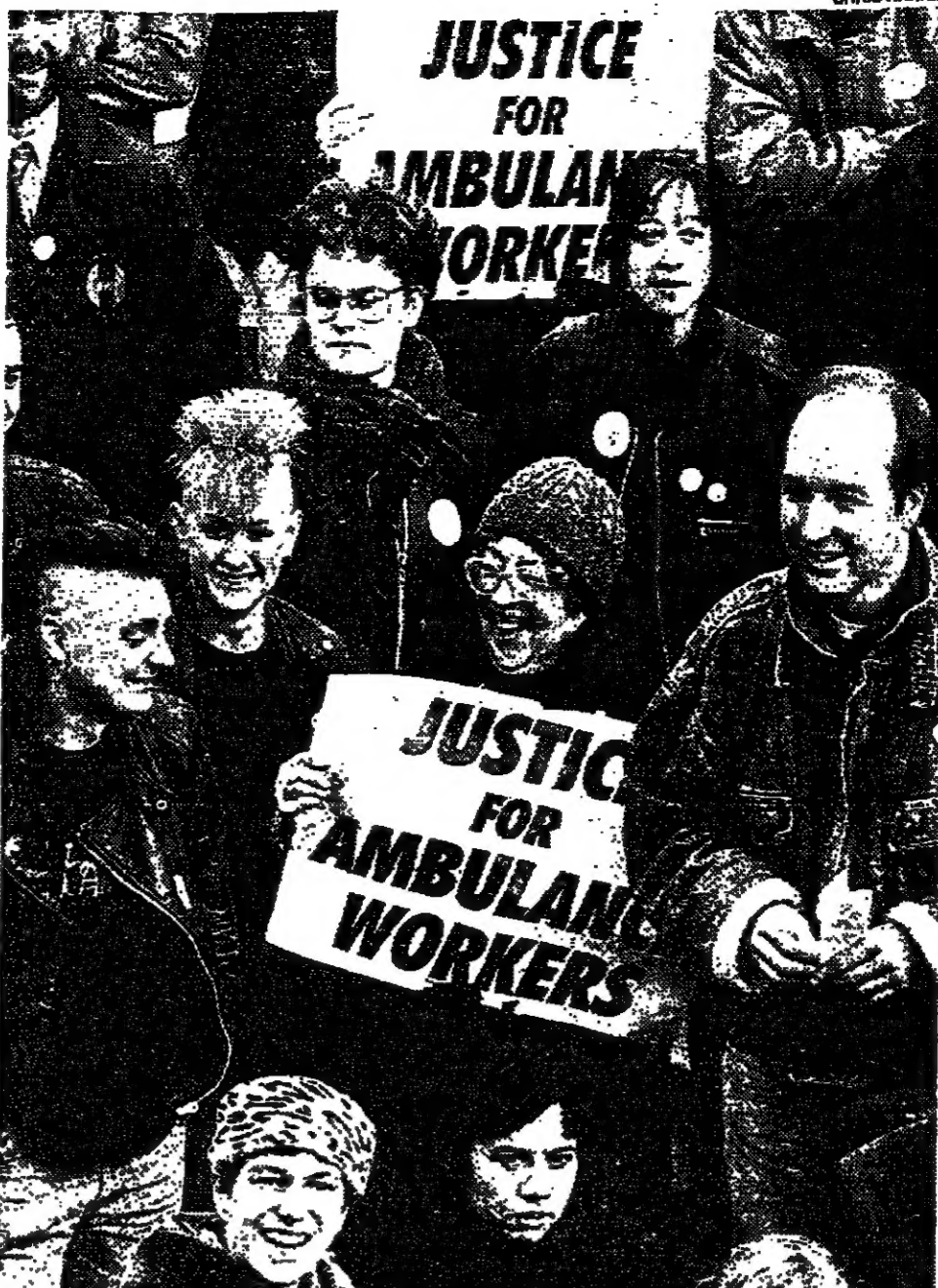
She said that ambulance men and women stood to gain between £650 and £1,400 each in backdated pay if they now accepted the settlement on offer.

Mr Poole, addressing a rally in south London, said: "January 30 will go down as a democracy day in Britain. Reports show that hundreds of thousands, probably millions of people are demonstrating today to say to this Government they will not accept their handling of the dispute any longer."

A spokesman for the Department of Health confirmed that a small number of staff who joined the demonstration faced disciplinary action for breach of contract.

Thousands of workers in many parts of the North-east also showed their support. In Newcastle upon Tyne the city centre came to a standstill.

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Supporters of the ambulance union gathering at a rally in Hackney, east London, yesterday.

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Cabinet is preparing to take a tough line tomorrow on pay awards for more than a million public servants, including nurses, teachers, doctors and the armed forces.

Senior government sources suggested last night that awards above the rate of inflation were likely to be staged in order to give a signal to the rest of the public sector and set an example to private employers that the defeat of inflation must remain the overriding priority for the Government.

There is intense speculation at Westminster that at least some of the recommended awards - which also include that from the Top Salaries Review Body - will be well over the rate of inflation.

Sources have suggested that the proposed awards for the armed forces and family doctors could prove "awkward" for the Government.

The Government is expected to keep the first stage of any awards below 8 per cent and to delay the remainder until later in the year.

The decisions will be seen as a yardstick for wage increases in the public sector.

One ministerial source said: "We have not been fighting this battle over ambulance pay for nothing. The right signal has to be given."

If the Cabinet reaches a conclusion tomorrow the pay awards will be announced in the afternoon. The review

bodies cover doctors and dentists, nurses and midwives, allied health professions, "top people" and the interim advisory committee on teachers' pay, which will also be determined tomorrow.

The difficulty for the Government over general practitioners arises from the new performance-related contract imposed on the profession last year.

It is understood that the Government will want to sweeten GPs by giving those who fulfil the contract a pay rise well into double figures. That award may also be staged.

Regular monitoring of teachers' performance will help to determine their pay and promotion chances, Mr Alan Howarth, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

Mr Howarth said that the Government did not see a direct or automatic link between pay, promotion and appraisal.

He added: "It does seem to us quite legitimate and desirable, in the interests of the profession, for information gained through the process of appraisal to be taken into account, along with other relevant factors."

Rejecting the proposal, Mr Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "There is no place in education for the casting couch."

NEWS ROUNDUP

Hindley attacked in Brady letter

Ian Brady, imprisoned for life for his role in the Moors murders, yesterday launched an attack on Myra Hindley in an attempt to thwart Lord Longford's "misguided and naive campaign" to secure her parole. In a letter from Park Lane mental hospital, Liverpool, Brady suggested that Hindley was a far more active participant in the murders in the 60s than she has admitted.

He alleges that the true story behind the child killings was that Hindley had "insisted" on strangling Lesley Ann Downey herself and had personally selected the couple's victims. Brady says that all the evidence he gave at the trial in 1966 was designed to save Hindley from prison because "we loved each other".

Lord Longford said last night: "Ian Brady is in a mental hospital. He is a sick man."

Gunmen jailed for life

Robert Adams, aged 38, a publican, of Bushmills, Co Antrim, and Robert Cooper, aged 22, of Forthriver Crescent, Belfast, admitted "loyalist" terrorists, were given life sentences at Belfast Crown Court yesterday for their part in the murder of three Catholics. Their victims died when Ulster Volunteer Force gunmen attacked the Avenue Bar in Union Street, Belfast, in May 1988, killing Stephen McGahan, Paul McBride and Damien Devlin.

Aids compensation

Haemophiliacs infected with the Aids virus after treatment with contaminated blood products are expected to start receiving tax-free lump sums of £20,000 today. Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Minister of State for Health, said yesterday that the money would go to more than 1,000 haemophiliacs, or their next of kin. The Macfarlane Trust will administer payments from £19 million allocated by the Department of Health to help meet the needs of victims and their families.

Museum takes prize

The Museum of the Moving Image, on the South Bank in London, and the first four phases of the Broadgate development in the City, have won the top prizes in this year's awards for innovation in building design and construction, organized by the PA Consulting Group. It was announced yesterday (Charles Kneivitt writes). The winning buildings, designed by Avery Associates and Arup Associates respectively, were chosen from 35 entries.

Blackmail charges

A former Scotland Yard detective accused of trying to extort £1.25 million from Heinz, was also charged yesterday with contaminating products, including baby food and soup, in an alleged £2.75 million blackmail campaign. Rodney Witcho, a security guard, aged 42, of Station Lane, Hornchurch, Essex, was remanded in custody from Marylebone Court for trial at the Central Criminal Court on 12 charges, six alleging blackmail threats.

Banned driver jailed

A motorist who drove a car a month after being disqualified from driving for 30 years was sentenced to six months' imprisonment yesterday. Leicester Magistrates' Court was told that Jeremy Smith, aged 26, had 28 previous convictions for driving offences, including eight for drink-driving, for which he had served several prison sentences. Smith, of Northfields, Leicester, admitted driving while disqualified and driving without third-party insurance.

Attack by police on 'incompetent' CPS

By Sheila Ginn, Political Reporter

Incompetent prosecutors have been accused by the police of allowing suspected criminals to walk free from court.

Representatives from police bodies have complained to MPs that "case after case" is being lost through mis-handling by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Most notably they cite the failure to prosecute for racial attacks, assaults on police officers and domestic violence, even when there appears to be strong evidence.

The strongest indictment to date of the CPS will be presented to the Commons home affairs committee today

by the police, barristers and magistrates. It refers to cases lost because of alleged incompetence by CPS lawyers, charges reduced to speed up court proceedings; and a rise in escapes from courtrooms. It also claims CPS lawyers have undermined links between the police and minority communities and failed to use new powers in the drugs war.

By the way, the CPS is accused of being too slow to prosecute for racial attacks, assaults on police officers and domestic violence, even when there appears to be strong evidence.



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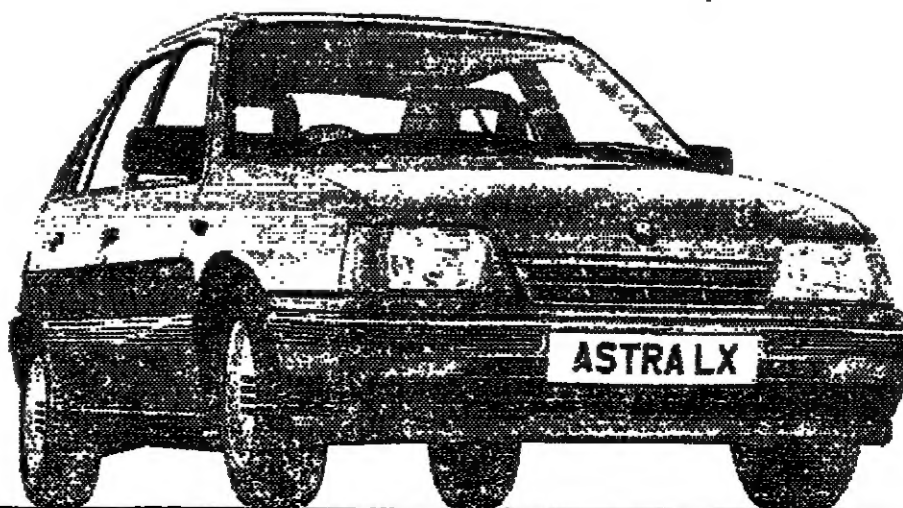
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Pay rises for public sector may be staged

Electrician is sentenced for bad work that cost life

By David Sapsted

An electrician was found guilty of manslaughter yesterday for shoddy work that cost the life of a father.

Lawyers immediately predicted that the long-awaited decision at Maidstone Crown Court could have far-reaching consequences for anyone — from car mechanics to doctors — deemed to have caused a death by poor workmanship.

After one of the first prosecutions of its kind, Stephen Holloway, aged 43, from Ashford, Kent, received a nine-month suspended prison sentence for the manslaughter of Mr Stephen French, aged 23. Mr French died in front of his son aged one when he was electrocuted after touching the steel sink at his grandmother's home in High Halden.

Holloway had wired up a new central heating system at the house and had connected a live wire in the programmer to an earth lead in the junction box. The error meant that, at certain times, anything connected to metal pipework in the house was live.

After members of the family had repeatedly received shocks from the system and after a delivery driver had been knocked from the top of an oil tank by the jolt he received, the electrician had twice checked his work and declared it to be sound. Mr French, who was in stocking feet and standing on a damp floor when he received the shock, died five months after the installation.

Last night, Sir David Napley, one of Britain's foremost criminal judges, said: "In this modern age life has become cheap and I think that where someone has, by reason of recklessness, terminated someone else's life, it is desirable that he be prosecuted. It is a warning to others. If such prosecutions enforce the message that people have a duty to take care to safeguard the lives of others, then it must be welcomed."

A leading criminal lawyer said: "This is the first case anyone can recall of its kind. The ramifications could be enormous: electricians, builders, car mechanics, doctors

Victor and vanquished: Editors face their peers



Mr Andrew Neil tells reporters of his delight after winning his libel action yesterday; but Mr Peregrine Worsthorne, right, says the "derisory" damages were a victory for free speech.

Neil: First of Britain's satellite TV generation

By Richard Evans

Making the headlines as well as writing them has never posed a problem for Andrew Neil.

When appointed editor of *The Sunday Times* in 1983, he was appearing on television on both sides of the Atlantic. Then, in perhaps the most prophetic statement of his career, he said: "I'm going to have to rein back and concentrate on *The Sunday Times*, but I still expect to pop up and gain the paper publicity from time to time."

And now, whether suggesting a rift between the Queen and Mrs Thatcher or attempting to discredit the Thames Television film about the Gibraltar IRA killings, his newspaper seems to make the news as much as report it.

A frequent guest on radio and television shows, he has been equally forthright on anything from trade unions and the Establishment to satellite television and Wapping. Although extremely bright, quick-witted and eloquent, his

aggressive, combative attitude has not always won him admirers.

Sir John Junor suggested in the *Sunday Express* that he should appear less on television. Mr Michael Grade went further and said he combined two rare qualities: "complete megalomania and the common touch."

Despite his tough exterior, friends say he is sensitive to criticism and hates not to be liked. "He is like someone with his face pressed to the outside of a window looking into a room where an upper-crust cocktail party is taking place. He despises those inside, but wishes he had been invited," a former colleague said yesterday.

Some journalists go on to the world of politics; Mr Neil did it the other way round. His first job after graduating from Glasgow University in 1971 was as political adviser to Mr Peter Walker, then in the Heath Cabinet. His journalistic career began on *The*

Economist in January 1973, where he reported on Northern Ireland, Parliament and trade unions before becoming correspondent in the US in 1979. He became UK editor in 1982.

His love affair with television and new technology blossomed in America, where he admired the greater choice of programmes.

He persuaded the head of an American anti-trust consultancy to let him set up a British arm to advise and campaign on the deregulation of television. With Mr Rupert Murdoch contemplating involvement in satellite transmission, their paths were bound to cross.

Now aged 40, Mr Neil has recently returned to edit *The Sunday Times* full-time after launching Sky Television's four satellite channels. What the future holds is unclear — but given his ambitious streak, the headlines are bound to continue to follow him.

Worsthorne: Last of the Fleet Street romantics

By Our Media Editor

When Peregrine Gerard Worsthorne wrote his leader about Andrew Neil and Donald Trefford, he reflected about the editors of yesterday — and unintentionally provided the nearest thing to a self-portrait.

"Editors of quality newspapers used to be *hommes sérieux* — frequenters of Oxbridge high tables, learned seminars, European chancelleries, establishment dinners," he opined.

Colourful, at times classically outrageous, and most certainly a romantic, "Perry" is one of the most distinctive figures of what is still referred to as Fleet Street.

While at the helm of *The Sunday Telegraph*, he would probably have preferred to have edited from the reassuring comfort of the Garrick club rather than the impersonal Isle of Dogs.

The brevity of his hold on the editor's chair was due in part to his genteel ways and his inability to handle the

office politics and manoeuvrings.

Mr Worsthorne's distinctive brand of Conservatism and Establishment pedigree was often spiced with a mischievous delight in shocking people — as when he told the wife of his school days seducer George Melly: "Of course, we've got a lot in common."

In 1975, he uttered a four-letter word on television and was temporarily suspended from duties on *The Sunday Telegraph*. In spite of his print journalism elegance, he has always appeared out of place on television.

Apart from being seduced at Stowe, he won an exhibition to Peterhouse, Cambridge. His university career was interrupted by war, but after completing his degree, he started on the journalistic ladder in 1946 as a sub-editor on the *Glasgow Herald*. He moved quickly to *The Times* and after five years as a sub-editor and leader writer trav-

elled to the *Daily Telegraph*. But he made his name on *The Sunday Telegraph*, which he joined in 1961.

He hoped to take over as editor in 1976, and made no effort to hide his disappointment when he was overlooked. "I am extremely bitter. I have every reason to be. I have been absolutely reliable, never drunk or anything like that, and this is the reward I get."

His turn finally came a decade later and he revitalized what had become a rather staid paper, but his success was short-lived. Sadly for him, he did not fit into his superiors' plans for a seven-day *Telegraph*.

As he subsequently explained in a typically frank magazine column, he was told of his fate over two perfectly poached eggs on buttered toast at Claridges by Mr Knight, who the day before had been invited to Perry's party at the Garrick.

Master of the libel battlefield

By David Sapsted

The phrase "ageing bimble" may have come as a surprise to Mr Justice Michael Davies during the battle of the editors, but the case did little else to rock the *sangfroid* of a judge who has overseen most recent high-profile libel cases.

At the age of 68, he is England's most senior libel judge, and he sat on the bench for the Tolson case last year that resulted in record £1.5 million damages for Lord Alton, the former Conservative Party vice-chairman.

The media have incurred his wrath more than once, Sir Michael not being at all keen on the toings and froings on the press bench — he once ordered the court doors locked to keep reporters in their seats. More seriously, he made his displeasure felt when *The Sun* reached an out-of-court £1 million settlement with Elton John the day before he was due to hear the case.

He then expressed disapproval of the newspaper's "pre-emptive strike" in publishing a front-page story about the settlement, saying his court had been turned into "a sapine adjunct to a publicity machine for pop stars and newspapers".

Nevertheless, his knack for coming up with quotable quotes has endeared him to journalists. His one glaring error — which he promptly rectified — was to set a date for a case involving the then England soccer captain Kevin Keegan for the middle of the 1982 World Cup.

The cradles of two schools of thought

By Ray Clancy and Alan Hamilton

Those who remember the schooldays of the two protagonists in the libel trial which provided such a wealth of entertainment recall Mr Peregrine Worsthorne as a far above-average pupil at an average public school, while Mr Andrew Neil emerges as an average pupil at an above-average school. One is the product of Scottish egalitarianism, the other of English elitism.

Stowe pupils tended to have been sent there by their mothers — it having a reputation for being much less spartan than many of its period. And so it was Mr Worsthorne, to the initial dismay of the boy who would rather have gone to Eton.

Opened in 1923 in a Buckinghamshire mansion, Stowe was a liberal school with a middle-of-the-road academic reputation. "You could get a good education if you wanted it," according to contemporaries of Mr Worsthorne, who went there in 1936.

"There were a lot of oafs there, but Perry was one of the grandees," a school friend said. "He had far more of an intellectual interest in his studies than most of his class. He achieved what he did by brilliant intelligence."

"At school, he had already become a historian. He was enthralled by the subject, and entrancing. He would spend hours in discussion and debate with classmates interested enough to listen."

Mr Neil is also remembered for his debating skills. Miss Lea Allan, his teacher at Paisley Grammar School, near



The egalitarian and the elitist: A cricketer Andrew Neil in Paisley Grammar's first eleven, and the romantic Peregrine Worsthorne seen through the pencil of a Stowe contemporary.



Glasgow, said of one competition: "Andrew was an outstanding speaker. With his fellow pupil, Four-Eyes Laing, he swept the board, beating a number of English schools which were expected to win."

The young Andrew Neil was seen as a serious, mature schoolboy who tried to stop his peers smoking, and although he liked the girls, he was more interested in cricket than school dances.

Mr William Robertson, a former classmate and now the school's deputy headmaster, said the boys used to lead "a very bland existence compared with today's pupils. We were very serious and worked hard. I remember Andrew as a fairly average pupil who liked playing cricket."

Up in Paisley, Mr Neil is admired by pupils, parents and teachers because of the interest he took when the school was threatened with closure in 1987. Down at

Church to benefit

There were four winners of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum competition, and they intend to spend their winnings very practically.

The Rev Christopher Unwin will use his share for an appeal at his church of St Bartholomew, Long Benton, near Newcastle on Tyne.

Mr James Mollett, of Fulham, south-west London, said he was thinking of buying a bicycle.

They share the prize with Mr Louis Lee, of Sunningdale, Berkshire, and Miss Jill Mee, a pensioner from Crawley, West Sussex, who said she would use her money to pay the poll tax. Each receives £500.



Prince to meet the winners

The Prince of Wales will present this year's Community Enterprise Awards, sponsored by *The Times*, the Royal Institute of British Architects, and Business in the Community, at the institute's headquarters in London on July 19, Kensington Palace announced yesterday (Charles Kneivitt writes).

The Prince, patron of the awards, will meet the winners of nine categories and hand over more than £30,000 in prize money.

Plans are also underway for a half-day conference on the role of professionals in community development, and on access to funding for community-led projects.

The fifth annual awards scheme was launched by Lord Scarman, its chairman, two weeks ago. The closing date for entries is March 7. Further details and application forms are available from Mr Robin Dean, administrator, CES, Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London, W1N 4AD (Telephone: 01-581 5533).

Stylish wardrobe full of bargains

The personal wardrobe of Valentina Schlee, the Russian refugee who became courtesier to Katherine Hepburn and Greta Garbo, came under the hammer at Christie's, New York yesterday, with mixed results.

From a selection of distinctive "little black" dresses, complete with the swagging shoulder pads of the 1940s, two classic halter-style evening dresses doubled their estimate at \$1,870 (£1,160). A beige crepe cape with gathered hood fetched six times its estimate, at \$2,200.

"The executors' intention was to sell everything today so some people managed bargains," Christie's said. Among these were two black wool jackets at £156 (half the estimate).

Valentina, a beautiful baller student during the Russian Revolution, fled to America in 1918 with her husband George Schlee. Her business began when New Yorkers started asking where she found the wonderful clothes she was wearing and she confessed they were all her own ideas. Christie's is to sell the tallest Emile Galle vase ever to appear at auction, in April.

English National Ballet dismisses artistic director

By Simon Tait Arts Correspondent

The artistic director of the English National Ballet has been dismissed in the latest development in the troubled company.

Mr Peter Schaufuss had his contract terminated with immediate effect yesterday because of "irreconcilable differences" with the ENB's board of management. The differences are thought to be over the artistic programme and methods of dealing with the company's growing deficit, now £350,000.

Mr Schaufuss was born in Denmark. He had an international reputation as dancer, for a time dancing with the company of which he took

charge in 1984. His departure signals the end of a long-running power struggle with the board.

The ballet was formerly called the London Festival Ballet, but the name was changed to appeal more to provincial theatres which had been put off by the association with the capital. However the name change brought criticism from the English National Opera whose Coliseum theatre in London the dancers used as their base.

Unconnected with the renaming disagreement, rent for use of the Coliseum, negotiated annually, was increased for last summer's season to a figure the ballet company could not afford. The ENB went to the Dominion Theatre where it made a loss of

£250,000. Sir Ian Hunter, former chairman of the ENB, retired last November and was replaced by Mr Ronnie Gorlin, but his election was not accepted by some members of the board. The Arts Council brought in an outsider, Lady Harlech, as chairman from the beginning of January.

Yesterday she said: "Peter Schaufuss has made a significant contribution to the development of the company but in recent times irreconcilable differences have developed between him and the board, and the board has come to the reluctant decision that his contract should be terminated with immediate effect. "We wish him every success for his future career."

The ENB is due to send two companies on tour in Britain this year. Mr Schaufuss, aged 39, has had notable triumphs during his five years as the company's artistic director.

He was responsible for the recent season of *The Nutcracker* which broke box office records at the Royal Festival Hall taking more than £1 million for the first time in the company's history, and giving it a surplus of £41,000.

It was Mr Schaufuss who invited Natalia Makarova to stage her production of *Swan Lake* and introduced the work of many major choreographers including Roland Petit, Christopher Bruce, George Balanchine and Maurice Bejart.

Mr Bruce is to remain as the company's choreographer.

NEWS ROUNDUP

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men jailed for life

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PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHITE PAPER

Rise of £5.5bn in public spending plans

By Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

The Government's public spending plans, published yesterday in 21 volumes, provide for a £5.5 billion increase in spending next year compared with plans in last year's White Paper.

Health and roads get more, along with British Rail and London Transport, the arts and higher education. Real increases are planned in benefits for the long-term sick and disabled with money also for a new initiative to tackle homelessness.

Among the main points are an increase in National Health Service spending of £2.4 billion, another £420 million over two years for the inner cities, 1,100 extra police officers with 1,200 support staff, £500 million more on higher education, £900 million on the Youth Training Scheme and £1.2 billion

on training the longer-term jobs.

The proposals are already under pressure from a rise in public spending in the present year. Spending this year is expected to be £1.36 billion higher than the £168.4 billion planned in the last White Paper, a bigger overshoot than forecast at the time of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's autumn statement.

The rise in spending in 1989-90 underlines the pressures on Mr John Major to raise taxes in the Budget on March 20. As a result of the Government's public spending decisions in the autumn, spending next year is planned to rise as a percentage of total spending in the economy for the first time since 1984-85.

City economists expect the budget surplus this year to turn out at between £8 billion and £10 billion, compared with the original intention of £14 billion, partly because of

higher public spending and partly because of lower tax payments reflecting the slowdown in the economy.

In last week's debate on the autumn statement, Mr Major conceded that the surplus would be lower than the revised forecast of £12.5 billion. If the surplus is to remain at a prudent level, some City analysts think tax increases will be necessary.

The main reason for the rise in spending this year since the autumn statement is the £150 million extra on compensating investors in Barlow Clowes and £62 million on Britain's contribution to the stabilization fund for Poland. Local authority spending has also been running ahead of forecast as councils increase their spending ahead of the new regime for capital controls which comes into operation in April.

On the Treasury's new definition, planned spending for next

year is £179 billion, or about £5.5 billion higher than planned previously. Totals for the next two years are £192.3 billion and £203.4 billion, unchanged from the autumn statement.

Department running costs are expected to rise by 9.6 per cent year, significantly above the rate of inflation and in line with recent pay settlements. The Treasury said yesterday that there was no pay assumption behind the figures. The increase was due to expansion of departmental responsibilities in priority areas such as health and the roads.

As a percentage of gross national product, general government expenditure is expected to be about 39 per cent, slightly higher than the 38.75 per cent forecast for the present year. In the next two years, the downward trend resumes with figures of 38.75 per cent and 38.5 per cent.

Included in the yearly spending totals are reserves of £3 billion, £6 billion and £9 billion successively. Privatization proceeds are planned to be £5 billion in each year, although in the present year they are expected to fall short at £4.25 billion.

Capital spending, which is described as public sector asset creation to emphasize the limits of the Treasury definition, is forecast to rise from £7.15 billion last year to £8.29 billion in the present year. This excludes public projects such as the Dartford bridge, east London, which are being financed by the private sector under a concession.

City analysts said the White Paper in general confirmed the plans set out in the Chancellor's autumn statement, but there was concern about some of the assumptions behind the figures.

Mr Simon Briscoe, of Greenwell Montagu, said: "The assumption

about inflation next year seems credible but the 3 per cent rise in the retail price index the year after is surely an underestimate."

The main purpose of the White Paper in the new form introduced last year is to provide a detailed survey by government departments of spending on different programmes and what the money is buying. Included is a wide range of performance indicators.

The Home Office says that targets for processing immigration appeals have been exceeded by 20 per cent this year. The Department of Education and Science reports that the number of first degree graduates has increased from 119,000 to 131,000 between 1985-86 and 1989-90. The Department of Energy estimates represent annual savings from energy efficiency programmes of well over £500 million.

The Inland Revenue says the cost per employee for income tax cases has fallen in real terms from £13.07

in 1985-86 to £12.36 in 1988-89. The Department of Health says that the target of 70,000 cataract operations this financial year has been exceeded already by 11,740. Both Treasury ministers and the Commons select committee on the Treasury are keen to re-focus interest in the White Paper on value for money.

The new spending plans are all drawn up on the Treasury's new definition of public spending, which includes local authority spending financed by central government grants but excludes local spending which is financed locally through the community charge.

The idea behind the change is that the government figures should reflect only the things that government can control, leaving the rest to local accountability.

The Government's Expenditure Plans 1990-91 to 1992-93 (Stationery Office, Cmd 1021; published in 21 separate chapters).

Cash to predict global warming

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

Substantial new funding for environmental research may lead to a breakthrough in predicting the effects of global warming, according to the public expenditure White Paper.

The White Paper says that by 1993, the UK Centre for Climate Change Prediction, now being set up after being announced by Mrs Margaret Thatcher last November, should be able to start work on regional predictions of the greenhouse effect.

Until now, one of the greatest uncertainties about global warming has been that computer models have been able to give only a general, average prediction of the warming of the atmosphere for the world as a whole.

The guess is that, at present rates of carbon dioxide emission from industry, motor vehicles and power stations, world temperatures will increase by between 1.5C and 4.5C by about 2030.

However, big and unknown regional variations may be experienced, making effective planning to take account of changes in rainfall, agricultural productivity and rising sea levels virtually impossible.

The centre is being set up at the Meteorological Office at Bracknell, Berkshire. The White Paper says: "By 1992-93, the work on climate change should have refined predictions to a position where they may be further developed for regionally specific purposes." Funding for the study will rise from £600,000 this year to £5.7 million in 1990-91, with most of the money going on the establishment of the centre.

It is the biggest rise in a predicted 21 per cent increase in research spending from £36 million this year to £42.3 million in 1992-93 by the Department of the Environment. Other areas of research will include air pollution, environmental economics and the North Sea.

The Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) and the Countryside Commission will both benefit from a funding increase of more than 20 per cent over three years, with the NCC's budget increasing from £40.2 million to £48.6 million and the commission's budget rising from £22.2 million to £26.8 million.

The NCC provision includes funding for its controversial division into English, Scottish and Welsh agencies next year. The department

ENVIRONMENT

said last November that most of the extra funding "is intended to provide a direct boost to conservation work".

The National Rivers Authority, which took over the regulatory functions of the former regional water authorities in England and Wales last September, is developing its first corporate plan and so does not have long-term income or expenditure targets.

However, the White Paper shows that in its first full year, the authority is to receive £93.3 million in grant-in-aid to add to the £63.5 million it expects to earn by charging for licences to abstract water and discharge sewage.

Pumping costs, exclusive of the authority's responsibilities for flood defence, are expected to be £167.5 million. Flood defence expenditure will be a further £180.8 million.

The authority will receive only £8.6 million in receipts from fishing licences, although it intends to spend £16.1 million on the care and maintenance of fisheries.

The seven national park authorities, which are 75 per cent funded by the Government with other costs met by county councils, are to receive a 10 per cent increase in government funding from £9.06 million to £9.97 million next year.

The body which oversees water bills is expected to double its staff during the next year, according to the White Paper (David Walker writes).

The Office of Water Services, which was created to protect consumers from unjustified increases in water and sewerage bills, now has 46 staff. That will rise to 102 by the end of 1990-91; its budget will rise from £3 million to £5 million.

A big drop in the public cost of the Property Services Agency is also shown. In 1990-91, government outlay on the agency, which is being groomed for privatization, will be £30 million. By 1992-93 the scheduled privatization date - the agency ought to be repaying about £10 million to the Government.

Pressure to increase receipts collected by government agencies also explains how the Government expects the Ordnance Survey to cost a third less in 1992-93 in cash terms, although staff numbers will fall only slightly.



Inflation threat to funding

HEALTH SERVICE

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities may face financial difficulties if health service pay and prices rise higher than the 5 per cent inflation assumed in the public expenditure White Paper.

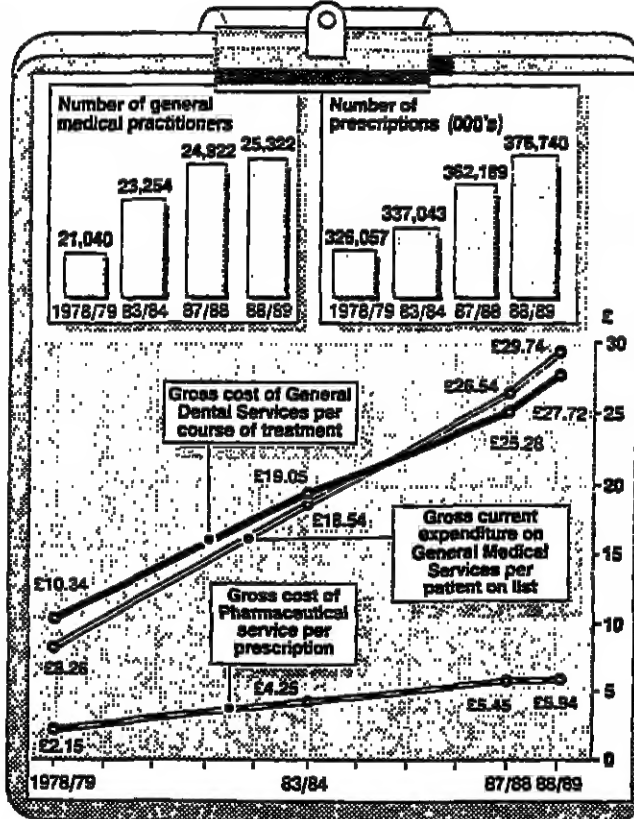
Awards well above this are expected shortly from both the doctors' and nurses' pay review bodies. There is bound to be a knock-on effect on other NHS pay groups.

If the Government fails to fully fund pay rises for the 400,000 nurses and 80,000 doctors any real increase in health service funding in 1990-91 will be severely eroded.

Health authorities know that they will get no extra money for pay increases for the remainder of the million NHS employees.

Although spending on the NHS as a whole is to go up by £2.4 billion in 1990-91, health authorities get only an extra £1.16 billion, bringing spending levels to £14.8 billion. That represents a 3.4 per cent rise in real terms, as long as inflation sticks to 5 per cent.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, expects health authorities to find a further £150 million in cost improvement programmes and £25 million in income



generation schemes, boosting the rise to £1.3 billion.

The White Paper contains no surprises for the health service, confirming figures announced in the autumn statement. Spending on the NHS in England will increase from £19.9 billion to almost £22 billion next year. It is expected to rise to £23.3 billion in 1991-92 and to £24.4 billion in the next year. Pro-

jected increases after next year provide little extra to implement health service reforms.

This financial year, £85 million was allocated to help meet the preliminary costs of the Government's reforms. A further £300 million - about £180 million revenue and £150 million capital - is to be allocated in 1990-91.

Mr Clarke's decision to spend money on implementing the changes before legislation has been introduced is being contested in the High Court today by a group of consultants led by Professor Harry Keen, of Guy's Hospital.

The White Paper confirms that spending on demand-led family practitioner services will go up by £583 million, an increase of 7.3 per cent in real terms, bringing total resources on primary health care services to nearly £5.4 billion.

Net spending on these services is set to rise to £5.8 billion in 1991-92 and £6.4 billion in 1992-93.

The White Paper shows that prescription, dental and optical charges are expected to bring in £600 million, up by £72 million, nearly double the increase of the previous year.

Spending on social security will rise from £52.6 billion to £55.6 billion in 1990-91 and to £63.5 billion in 1992-93.

Expenditure on sick and disabled people is expected to rise from £9.5 billion to £13.4 billion in 1992-93. Spending on the unemployed is likely to go up from £4.7 billion to £5.6 billion in 1992-93.

At home £1 million will be available towards the cost of international investigations by police.

Central government spending on the police is expected to increase from £2 billion in 1989-90 to £2.3 billion in the next financial year.

Completion of the Roads to Prosperity programme will increase the motorway network to 2,700 miles of new and widened roads - mainly in an effort to relieve congestion along key inter-urban routes - at a cost of £14 billion over the next decade.

The expanded roads programme is needed to help minimize the impact of revised traffic forecasts which expect a maximum 47 per cent increase in vehicle numbers by 2,000, a maximum 85 per cent increase by 2010, and a maximum 142 per cent increase by 2025.

The policy aims of the existing and new roads programmes include the promotion of economic growth by reducing transport costs, the improvement of the environment by removing through traffic from towns and villages, enhancing road safety, and preserving past investment in the road network at

minimum cost, the White Paper says.

The Government's determination to press ahead with new roads schemes will be welcomed by the British Road Federation and other pro-road lobby groups.

However, it is likely to be greeted with dismay by environmental organizations, which say that the Department of Transport has failed to appreciate the environmental consequences of increased vehicle emissions.

The White Paper says the results of a 1988 road condition survey show there has also been a tangible improvement in the quality of roads over the past three years although there remain considerable variations between regions and classes of road.

It reiterates the Government's determination to reduce British Rail's annual subsidy from £533 million received last year to £358 million by 1993, based on increased operating efficiency, reduced manpower and maintenance costs, and continued increases in ticket sales.

It adds that investment is expected to continue increasing from the present level of £674 million in 1989-90, to £1,186 million by 1993. This includes completing the electrification of the east coast mainline between London and Edinburgh, and the introduction of new rolling stock on Network SouthEast.

Demand for London Underground services is expected to show an annual 2 per cent increase over the next few years, and services are expected to increase to meet demand, although the system is likely to remain under considerable strain, particularly during peak periods.

Cost of roads to rise £680m

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

Government spending on extending and maintaining the national road network is on target to increase by £680 million over the next few years, bringing overall spending on roads to £1,985 million by 1993.

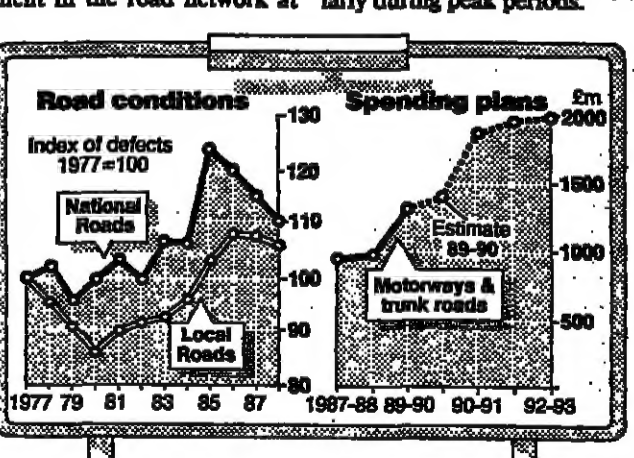
Of this, £25 million has been designated for an early start to a road construction programme outlined in the Roads to Prosperity White Paper published last May, and £40 million to speed up completion of road schemes such as the M40 between Oxford and Birmingham.

Other priorities in the existing programme include the M1-A1 link in the East Midlands, the M66 in Manchester, the A27 Brighton bypass, schemes on the A406 North Circular Road, north London, upgrading of the A1 in Yorkshire, the A13 to London Docklands, and the A11 to Norwich.

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Defence budget grows despite improved East-West relations

DEFENCE

The Government's defence spending plans give no hint of possible changes in the size of the military budget in the next two years to take account of the diminishing threat from the Warsaw Pact.

Defence spending will continue to rise by an average of 1 per cent a year in real terms, from the present £20.3 billion to £21.2 billion for 1990-91 and £22.3 billion in 1991-92.

Treasury officials said that defence spending between now and 1992 was confirmed. The Ministry of Defence was the first of the big departments to win a three-year settlement, claiming it was needed for proper planning.

However, the officials said that the 1990-91 defence budget could still be "opened up" if the Government decided to change its policy on military spending in the light of a conventional arms control agreement and the new political circumstances.

The document was drawn up before the fall of the Berlin Wall and the revolutions in Eastern Europe. However, a Treasury official yesterday underlined the Government's position that there was no

intention of holding a big defence review.

According to the document, the MoD spends £4.3 billion a year on the defence of the central front, nearly £2.2 billion on home defence, £1.1 billion on the nuclear deterrent and nearly £2.6 billion on maritime operations.

DIPLOMACY

The pin-striped image of Foreign Office civil servants looks likely to change to one of tight jumpers and cords, at least for the small numbers who work at weekends.

As part of a cost-saving scheme reflected in the estimates, the Foreign Office turns off the heating from Friday night to Monday morning. Weekend diplomats already feeling the cold face worse to come: the office aims to cut fuel costs by a further three per cent this year.

The search for economies has led to a 10 per cent cut in staffing since 1979, reducing the number of British diplomats serving overseas to 2,839. Each diplomat costs on average £67,000 a year.

Some of the Foreign Office's services will soon be self-financing. The provision of

visas for foreigners and commercial advice for British companies abroad will make a £1.06 million loss this year, but should almost break even next year.

East Europeans applying to settle in Britain found last year that the visa fee had gone up from £50 to £60.

British companies accustomed to token charges have also seen big increases. A detailed market analysis now costs £150 to £450, reflecting a Foreign Office view that higher charges should lead to advice being requested and used more selectively.

EDUCATION

More government money will be needed to support the education reforms over the next three years, including the continued introduction of the National Curriculum and the self-management of schools, according to the White Paper.

Total spending by central and local government on all education is expected to rise from £5,748 million in 1989-90 to £6,590 million in 1990-91; £6,770 million in 1991-92 and £6,920 million in 1992-93.

In 1990-91 about £110 million of the £141 million to be

spent on education support grants will be used to ease the introduction of the reforms.

Central government will provide grants up to 60 per cent out of a total £84 million. Local education training grants for 1990-91 will total £83 million.

The Government has set standard spending targets for local authorities which will also receive grants totalling about £200 million from the Department of Employment and income from the Polytechnics and Funding Council.

Student grants in 1989-90 totalled £888 million, rising to £1,192 million in 1990-91; £1,506 million in 1991-92 and £1,545 million in 1992-93. The figures reflect the Government's intention to freeze the main rates after 1990-91, as top-up loans come in.

FARMING

Spending on market support of British farming under the European Community's common agricultural policy is estimated to drop by £158 million in 1989-90, according to the White Paper.

Total expenditure in the UK on agricultural market

support under EC policies amounted to £1,156 million in 1988-89, compared with £1,392 million in 1987-88, and is forecast to fall to £998 million in 1989-90, the White Paper says.

The fall in expenditure is largely attributed to higher world commodity prices, particularly for cereals, which have enabled the EC to dispose of surplus production at a lower level of export subsidy, and to cuts in the production incentives offered to EC farmers.

AID

The overseas aid programme has begun to grow after a decade of decline which has left Britain well behind its main European Community partners and close to the bottom of the international league in percentage terms.

The Government says that the £1,502 million it is spending this year represents a 12 per cent increase. This is due to rise to £1,590 million in 1990/91, a rise which, it claims, amounts to a 9 per cent increase in real terms.

It also claims that UK aid as a percentage of gross national product rose by 14 per cent in

1988, up from 0.28 per cent in 1987 to 0.32 per cent.

However, aid agencies say from 1975 to 1979, Britain gave on average 0.49 per cent.

CRIME

Initiatives in the fight against drug trafficking costing over £6 million are included in the Home Office's plans for spending on the police and crime prevention.

Some £1 million is being allocated for a summit on drug abuse in April which will bring to London government leaders from drug-producing countries and their markets.

The Home Office has increased aid abroad from £1 to £3 million in 1990/91.

At home £1 million will be available towards the cost of international investigations by police.

Central government spending on the police is expected to increase from £2 billion in 1989-90 to £2.3 billion in the next financial year.

HOUSING

The increasing role for housing associations in subsidized housing is shown by the proposed spending of the

Housing Corporation, whose resources are to rise from £818 million in 1989-90 to £1,221 million in 1990-91, and up to £1,736 million by 1992-93, an increase of 112 per cent.

The Government said priority should be given to remedying shortages of subsidized rented housing and ensuring that homeless families are properly housed.

Central government's total expenditure on housing is planned to increase from an estimate of £1,537 million in 1989-90 to £2,279 million in 1990-91 and £2,680 million by 1992-93, largely reflecting increased grants and subsidies to the housing associations.

REGIONS

Extra money is being provided for improving drinking water in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Neither region was included in last November's privatization in which the English and Welsh water authorities were sold.

In Scotland, water, as well as urban development and other non-housing items of capital spending, has been allocated £460 million in

1990-91, rising to £510 million in 1992-93.

In Northern Ireland, some extra provision has been made for environmental expenditure, where water is the major item. Expenditure on environmental services is set to rise there from £199 million in 1990-91 to £220 million in 1992-93.

LAW

Plans by the Lord Chancellor's Department to consult more widely over the appointment of judges were disclosed in the White Paper.

It says that the department intends to maintain and "if possible increase" the field of consultation about judicial appointments, as well as efficiency and fairness of methods of procedure for selection and the "process of the appointments system as a whole."

Outlining how the department's "strategic objectives" relate to the judiciary, the paper says that the department wants to maintain good relations with the judges. It says the department will build up and improve the training and study facilities for judges and magistrates.

Judge orders girls to leave school run by religious sect

A Scottish judge yesterday ordered that two young sisters should leave a school run by a religious sect and return to education within the state system, as recommended in reports by an advocate and a psychologist who visited the Kingdom Christian School, Dean Bridge, in Edinburgh's West End.

At the Court of Session in Edinburgh, Lord Prosser said the school did not at present make provision for secondary education. One of the sisters would be going to secondary school next term and the two sisters should be treated similarly.

He granted a court order to the children's father, Mr Robert Allen of Willowbrae, Edinburgh, to prevent his former wife Elizabeth sending their daughters Louise, aged 10, and Jennifer, aged 9, to the school.

At an earlier hearing, it was claimed on Mr Allen's behalf that the school was run on American lines: there were only 11 or 12 pupils and they worked at pigeonsholes facing the wall.

It was claimed there was little opportunity for tuition in music or physical education. The school was said to empha-

size the "godly" content of every lesson. It was said that Mr Allen believed the school was damaging to his daughters' welfare.

Mrs Allen is said to be a member of a church known as the Christian Centre Ministries, which runs the Kingdom Christian School.

After the Allens divorced in June last year, she moved the girls to the school from Glenhouse Primary.

A dispute has broken out between left-wing members of England's biggest education authority and their own officials, over plans to withdraw written warnings issued to teachers who took part in unofficial strikes.

Miss Deirdre Wood, chairman of the Staff Sub Committee of the Inner London Education Authority, wants all written warnings issued to staff more than 12 months ago to be removed from their files before they are handed over to the 13 inner-London boroughs taking over responsibility for the 1,000 schools on April 1.

The proposal provoked one of the authority's most senior officials, the Education Officer Mr David Mallen, to take the rare step of publicly opposing an elected member.

In a paper submitted to the sub-committee, Mr Mallen says the use of official warnings has curbed wildcat strikes and brought peace to schools.

"The warning procedures have been successful in containing disruption, because staff are aware that warnings remain on their records indefinitely and will be referred to again should they take unofficial action or breach their contracts again," he said.

The three largest teachers' unions yesterday advised their members not to apply for jobs in the north London borough of Brent, because of a continuing dispute over the dismissal of a teacher.

They are protesting at what they claim is the council's refusal to honour a two-year-old industrial tribunal ruling requiring it to reinstate a teacher, Mr Robin Pumphrey, who was dismissed after a disagreement with his head-teacher over the curriculum.

The union had sought a severance payment "in line" with the £72,000 given to Miss Soonu Engineer in May last year after she quit as director of the council's Development Programme for Racial Equality.

Firemen move in centre-stage



Firemen fill a 5,000-gallon pool erected on the stage of the Globe Theatre in the West End, London, for Alan Ayckbourn's latest play, *Man of the Moment*. Special supports had to be constructed to hold the pool, which will weigh 38 tons when full.

Security breach at Commons TV studio

By Andrew Pierce and Richard Evans

An internal inquiry has been ordered into a security breach at the BBC's television studios at Westminster which could have threatened the televising of the Commons.

Thieves broke into the studios at Methodist Central Hall at the weekend and escaped with 10 video recorders worth £2,500. Tight security is in place at the studios to protect equipment installed for the televising of Parliament.

Electronic security doors installed to deter intruders failed to repel the thieves, who struck on Saturday, the police believe.

BBC chiefs ordered an urgent investigation to find out how the thieves broke into the technical area in the basement of the building. It was alleged that a security key used by a team of electrical contractors working in the studios last week was missing.

A BBC employee, who declined to be named, said: "This has caused a terrible row. MPs are going to want to know how it can be so easy to pull the plug on Parliament." A report may be made to the parliamentary committee chaired by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, which is supervising the television experiment.

Rover plant agrees to ban local strikes

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

Rover has signed an agreement amounting to a "no strike" deal covering 8,000 workers at its Cowley plant near Oxford.

The agreement for unions and Rover to accept binding arbitration is seen as the first in the established British motor industry, which is beset with strikes and disruption.

More than 13,000 workers at Ford were laid off without pay yesterday because of unofficial strikes by 550 craftsmen at Halewood, Merseyside, which have disrupted three plants and cost £120 million in lost output.

Rover also faces the threat of a strike at its Longbridge plant in Birmingham, where 1,500 workers in the K-series engine plant have thrown out plans for 24-hour production.

The company said last night that the Cowley agreement covers only internal disputes and would not affect national agreements, such as wage deals for all 24,000 hourly-

paid staff. Mr Ivor Braggins, the Transport and General Workers' Union convenor, said the agreement would apply only to a "limited sphere of local disputes". It will protect the business from local strikes, like the one threatened at Longbridge.

Nissan has a similar agreement, achieved through a single-union deal and on a greenfield site.

Cowley, which has not suffered a serious dispute for six years, is set to become a key production centre with Rover spending £130 million developing a new generation of executive saloons there.

At Ford, national union officials will today face leaders of the striking craftsmen who have defied the company wage deal. Three plants were closed yesterday and 10,000 men in Halewood and Southampton were told to stay at home, while 3,000 at Genk, in Belgium, had to be laid off without pay.

Psychiatrists want to be user-friendly

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Up to a quarter of the adults in Britain may be prone to psychological problems, and women are twice as likely to suffer from depressive illnesses as men, the Royal College of Psychiatrists said yesterday.

The most vulnerable group of women are young mothers with several children, particularly if they do not get adequate support and understanding from their husband or partner.

The college has launched a leaflet, *Help Is At Hand*, which attempts to remove the stigma attached to mental illness, and encourages people suffering from depression to seek psychiatric help.

"We want to make psychiatry more user-friendly. People should not be afraid of us or offended or insulted if their general practitioner suggests they ought to come and see

us," Professor Brice Pitt, chairman of the college's public education committee, said. Dr Ruth Seifert, a consultant psychiatrist at Hackney Hospital, east London, said the symptoms of depression could range from loss of confidence, anxiety and sleep disturbance to feelings of guilt and hopelessness, which deterred many sufferers from going to their GP.

Professor Eugene Paykel, of Cambridge University psychiatry department, said: "Depression is at least twice as common in women as in men. The reasons are uncertain." However, women were more prepared to recognize problems in themselves.

The *Help Is At Hand* leaflet can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG.

Open University boosting careers

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

The Open University educates more disabled students than all other British universities combined and 70 per cent of its graduates feel their studies have boosted their careers, according to a survey published yesterday.

The survey, coinciding with the university's 21st anniversary, showed that 35 per cent of its graduates had left school at the minimum leaving age, four per cent had no qualifications on entry and 24 per cent had no A levels when they began their studies.

The university announced its 100,000th graduate yesterday: Mrs Brenda Ann Tombs, of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, who received her mathematics and computing degree from Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at a special ceremony in London.

Mrs Tombs, aged 41, a

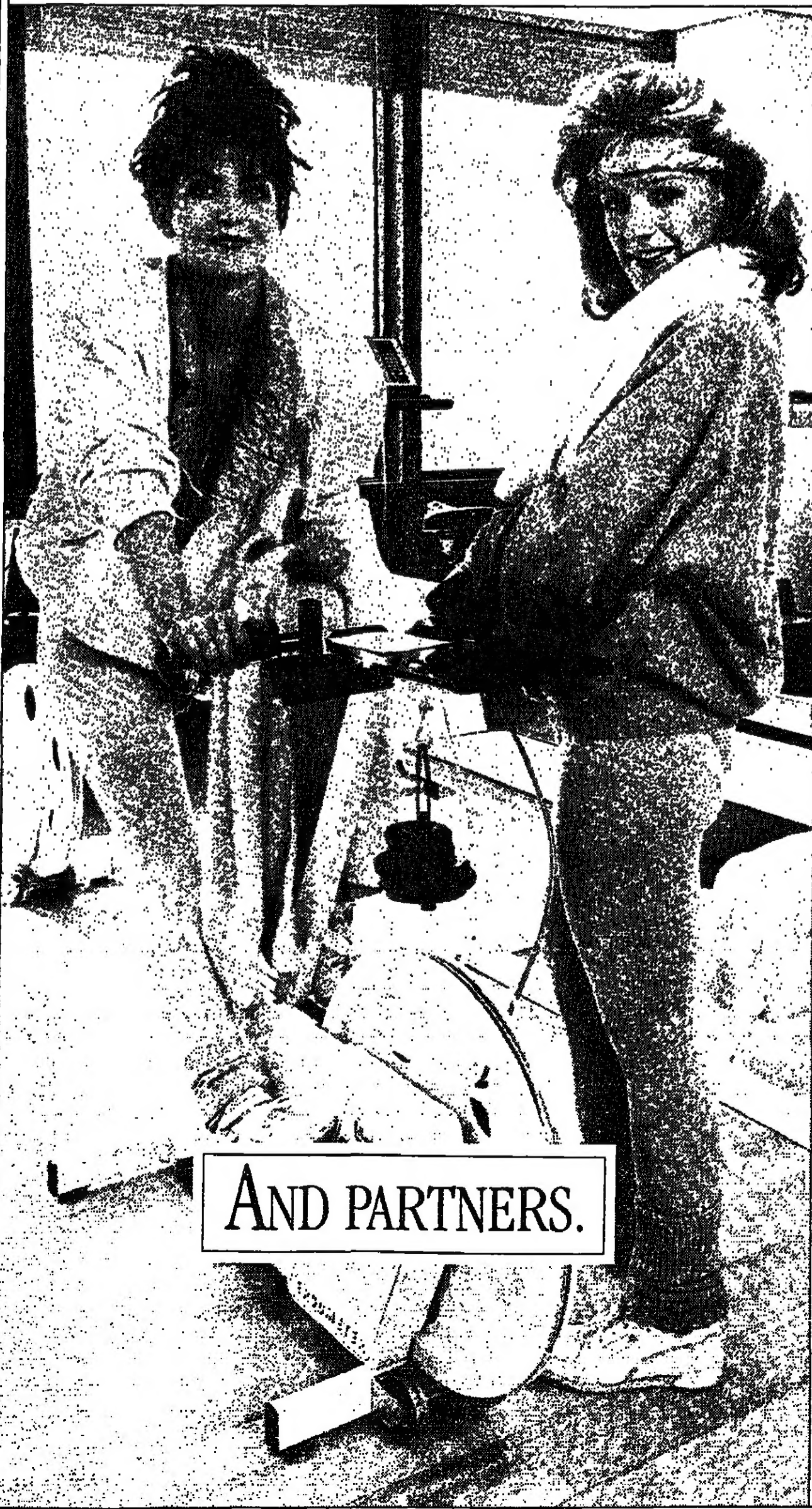
systems engineer with British Aerospace Dynamics in Stevenage, said the five years of study for her degree was "the best move I ever made", and had resulted in three promotions in six months.

Although most students with the Open University, based in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, were trainee teachers 21 years ago, the proportion has dropped to 17 per cent.

The university has extended its operations to Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands and is collaborating with other continental institutions with a view to setting up an "Open University of Europe" by the turn of the century.

Links have also been established with the newly emerging democracies of eastern Europe. British management courses are on offer in Hungary.

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Sales slump blamed for big fall in value of residential market

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The value of the residential property market fell by 25 per cent last year because of the slump in sales.

There was a 27.8 per cent fall in residential purchases from just over two million in 1988 to 1.5 million last year. Prices, averaging £57,990, were only 3.8 per cent higher.

The Adams Residential Property Index, derived from returns from solicitors regarding 9,481 purchases, and published by James R Adams and Associates, the marketing and research consultants, showed a continuing dissatisfaction with estate agents.

Thirty-nine per cent of buyers last month and 34.3 per cent of buyers during last year bought properties without the services of an agent. The value of the purchases was an estimated £31 billion, 27 per cent of the total market of £87 billion.

New properties were more likely to be bought without an agent, with two thirds bought direct from the builder, the index showed.

It showed there was close competition for a share in the property market, with GA Property Services and Prudential Property Services each holding 3.8 per cent, Halifax Property Services 2.8 per cent, Royal Life Estate Agents 2.7 per cent, Black Horse Property Services 2 per cent, Hambro's 1.9 per cent and Abbey National/Cornerstone and Nation-

A helpline for solicitors facing redundancy because of the property market slump has received "alarming evidence" of a worsening crisis, the Young Solicitors' Group said yesterday. In less than a month more than 30 inquiries have come from solicitors facing redundancy, all but one in conveyancing. "Solicitors are being laid off not only in small provincial law firms but also in large commercial solicitors' practices", the group says. But the helpline, available on the Law Society main telephone number in London, has received more than 12 job offers for redundant solicitors.

Other big chains had an average price of £60,000 to £70,000, with Halifax Property Services at £57,275. In spite of inroads made by the chains, other agents, mostly independents, accounted for 53 per cent of the market. Applications to buy council housing in Scotland have slumped by 40 per cent, probably because of high interest rates, according to a Statistical Bulletin from the Scottish Office yesterday.

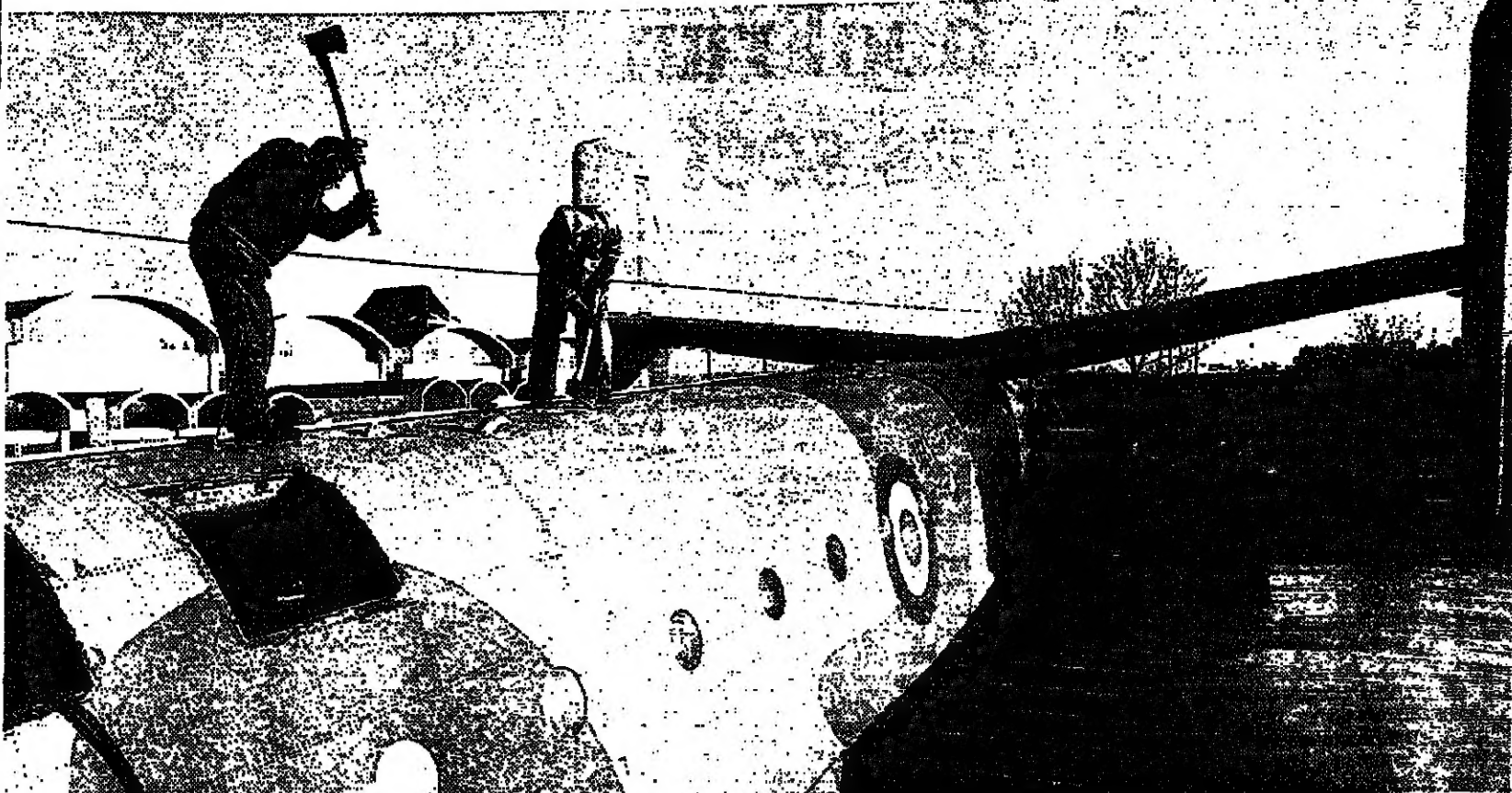
Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, said: "Over 7,400 public sector dwellings were sold to sitting tenants during the three months to the end of June 1989, an increase of over 21 per cent on the corresponding period in 1988. "While there has been a drop in applications to purchase over the corresponding period in 1988, it must be remembered that the level of applications during the second quarter of 1988 was exceptionally high. The figure for the second quarter of 1989 compared favourably with returns for 1987 when applications to buy exceeded previous annual figures."

More than 171,000, or 16.58 per cent, of public sector homes had been sold by last June. However, New Town and Scottish Homes houses were much more popular than council properties.

Only 13.92 per cent of council homes have been sold, ranging from 31.67 per cent in Badenoch and Strathspey to 7.03 per cent in Motherwell. However, 29.8 per cent of Scottish Homes tenants and 39.19 per cent of New Town tenants have become owners. The bulletin also showed there were 56,000 houses below the tolerable standard last year, a decrease of 3,000. This reflected the number of properties improved during the year, especially in Glasgow.

RAF museum scraps landmark plane

PETER TREWEN



Work starting yesterday on scrapping the RAF's front line transport aircraft which has been a landmark at RAF Hendon Museum, north-west London. The 1960s aircraft, which has fallen in to disrepair and become dangerous, will take three weeks to dismantle. Some parts are to be sold to collectors.

Motor mechanics face revolution in technology

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

Only the regular beep of the monitor can be heard as a laser beam scans the body of the patient and a white-coated figure checks the computer screens rolling out the latest condition before giving his diagnosis. Not a scene from the latest hospital television drama but a snapshot of the way motorists will have faults cured in their vehicles of the future. As cars become more

complex, with almost every facet controlled by tiny computers, the garage mechanic of 2000 will have a place in society equal to key hospital technicians, according to the Royal Automobile Club.

Mr John Wood, RAC chief engineer, said yesterday that the garage workshop will become a high technology centre, involving lasers and computers and run along the lines of a hospital operating theatre.

Instead of just changing the plugs

and the oil, the "new" mechanic will have to cope with problems posed by the same sort of equipment now being used on airline jets. This could include instrument displays that dispense with normal clock-like dashboards to project speed and fuel consumption on to a screen in the driver's eyeline. The increasing use of technology would change the role of the mechanic, demanding more highly qualified staff.

Mr Wood told motor industry

executives in Norwich: "I believe that by the year 2000, a laser scanner will be designed to pass over a car checking for signs of damage and misalignment. Like a human body scan, it will be able to detect early signs of failure or stress and enable a technician to pinpoint a fault before it is too late. By then, a motor trade technician will be highly respected and terms like mechanic and grease monkey will become redundant in motor industry vocabulary."

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HALIFAX

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MPs in clash over computer evidence

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

Police are increasingly concerned that the Government-backed private member's Bill aimed at cracking down on computer hackers will be unworkable, one of its key sponsors says.

Miss Emma Nicholson, Conservative MP for Devon West and Torridge, said police officers feared offenders may be impossible to prosecute unless computer evidence is made admissible in court.

Miss Nicholson, who agreed to drop her computer misuse Bill last summer in favour of a Law Commission study, said there were also concerns that warrants, needed to search suspects' premises and computers, will be unavailable to officers under the proposed legislation.

She said the problems had emerged because the new Bill, being introduced by Mr Michael Colvin, Conservative MP for Romsey and Waterside, had followed too closely the Law Commission's recommendations.

Miss Nicholson said it was her impression that the commission had been anxious not to alarm the public by giving the police additional powers.

She said it was crucial that the police were given the powers to enforce the law. She was planning amendments to the Bill in time for its second reading on February 9.

Her move has been greeted with surprise and dismay by Mr Colvin. "I have spoken to the police and British Telecom, who provide technical support, and manufacturers who may be called to

give evidence. They are all happy," he said.

He admitted that the existing Police and Criminal Evidence Act makes computer evidence inadmissible.

However, Mr Colvin conceded that "if a way could be found to beef up the Bill during its passage" on the admissibility issue he would be prepared to listen.

"I would resist body any moves over giving the police powers to access computer systems. We must concentrate on the simplicity of the basic offence," Mr Colvin said.

Under the proposals Miss Nicholson is considering, computer users will be forced to adopt minimum standards covering events such as a system's failure, so-called disaster recovery procedures.

British Telecom and Barclays Bank, backers of the misuse Bill, say they will support further moves to improve the safety and security of systems.



Miss Nicholson: Call to widen police powers.

O'Connor wins damages

Mr Des O'Connor, the entertainer, accepted substantial undisclosed damages at the High Court yesterday in disposal of four libel actions arising from the publication of articles claiming he was facing an investigation for alleged tax evasion. Mr Malcolm Canning, for Mr O'Connor, told Mr Justice Popplewell that articles containing the false allegation appeared in *The Sunday Times* on January 15, 1989 when it repeated an item from another newspaper, in *Today* newspaper on the following day, and in the magazines *Accountancy* and *New Accountant*. Mr Andrew Caldecott, for the defendants, said they welcomed the opportunity of publicly withdrawing the allegations made against Mr O'Connor.

Ban extended

An order banning publication of an article by Mr William Goodwin, a trainee journalist for *The Engineer* magazine who has refused to disclose a source, was continued by the High Court yesterday. An appeal is expected in March.

Priest accused

Anton Mowat, a Roman Catholic priest accused of offences against children in the United States, was yesterday remanded in custody by Bow Street magistrates, central London. He faces extradition to the US.

Guinness libel

Mr William Forrest, a former Distillers director, yesterday accepted undisclosed libel damages over an allegation in *Nightmare: The Ernest Saunders Story* in connection with the take-over bid by Guinness.

Minor trip

Jay Albus and his fiancée Lynda Burke from Leeds, yesterday set off on a three-year trip round the world in a 1957 Morris Minor.

Aids delay

Plans to test pregnant women in Yorkshire for Aids, to monitor the extent of the virus, have been put off until April for more discussions and training.

Tie tribute

The first annual award for contribution to society was made yesterday by The Guild of British Tiesmakers. Blue silk Great Britons' Ties went to Dame Vera Lynn. Mr Simon Weston, Mr Norman Tebbit, Sir Richard Attenborough and Viscount Whitelaw.

Farmer fined

A farmer who organized an open-air music festival was fined £10,200 yesterday for not providing adequate sanitary facilities and exceeding noise levels. Kevin Crabb, of Old Trewoyze Farm, Liskeard, Cornwall, pleaded guilty.

Police praised

Ten West Yorkshire policemen have been commended for their investigations into animal rights activists which resulted in two men being jailed.

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CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Allies aim to speed up talks on German unity

From Ian Murray, Bonn, and Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

With East Germany in imminent danger of collapse into chaos, the three Western allies are trying to improve their image in Bonn so that they can help speed up the process of German reunification. German unity has become a race against time.

It is now seen by all four powers, including the Soviet Union, as a way of bringing stability to Europe—provided the involved and difficult negotiations can be successfully launched in time.

Aware that West German leaders have been critical of them for foot-dragging on the road to unity, Britain, France and the United States are now urgently working towards ways of satisfying long-standing demands.

This would help establish a better relationship and improve chances of a successful, quick conclusion to intricate negotiations, which by treaty must be overseen by the allies.

To help create a better atmosphere of trust, the three allies are working hard to agree two things which West Germany has long wanted and campaigned for—the right of Luftwaffe to fly across the inner German border direct to Berlin; and the right of West Berliners to have a direct vote in elections to the Bundestag.

Both would involve diplomatically hazardous talks with the Soviet Union, as the fourth of the powers which still govern Berlin, and experts are now dusting down old treaties to check legal niceties which can be used to make these concessions possible.

What is driving all parties on is the general belief that East Germany is on the point of collapse into destabilising chaos.

This prediction, made by no less an expert than Herr Hans Modrow, the transitional East German prime minister, has forced the Soviet Union now to accept the inevitability of reunification to solve the

country's deep economic and political problems.

President Gorbachev acknowledged as much in summoning Herr Modrow to Moscow yesterday.

"In principle no one puts it in doubt," he told Tass. "Time itself is pressing on this process, giving dynamism to it."

But even with Soviet goodwill, senior observers here are far from optimistic that the two Germanies can be united in time to stop the ongoing haemorrhage of young people to the West from dangerously weakening the country.

In accepting the concept of a united Germany, President Gorbachev said that the issue could be resolved responsibly

Poland wants seat on Europe council

Brussels — Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish Prime Minister, yesterday applied for full membership of the 23-nation Council of Europe, at the same time warning the West that old-style communists in Eastern Europe were still a powerful force and could use the current chaos to delay reform (Michael Binyon writes). He told the council in Strasbourg that Poland wanted to be a full member because "we wish to share in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms".

by the wartime allies "but not on the streets".

The Western allies have always been ready to join in talks leading to the peaceful unification of a democratic Germany.

However, as was made plain in the final statement of the Strasbourg European summit last month, this must happen "through a global and balanced approach".

In Mrs Thatcher's view this means that the process "must come at a rate which takes account of other obligations

and which gives us time to work things out—otherwise we could destabilise everything".

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, flew to East Germany last week with an offer of British help and know-how to establish democracy and pluralism and to try to reassure people that they were being given support in the west.

None of this, however, materially helped to improve living standards. "I am not optimistic they are getting the feeling that things are going to get any better," one senior source here said this week.

The consequence is the continuing exodus at the rate of nearly 2,000 a day, making the old joke about Germany being reunited on the soil of West Germany less and less funny. Hence the need for a quick solution.

But even the most optimistic knowledgeable estimates suggest that it will all be a lengthy process. For reunification to occur it will have to be through the "self-determination" of the German people themselves.

Nobody has yet even defined how that can be done—whether through a plebiscite, a decision of a democratically elected parliament or some other democratic system. Nor is it clear whether West Germany itself needs to take some kind of vote on the issue, given that reunification is written into the country's basic law.

If the Germans themselves decide that reunification is the answer to the German question, there will still have to be a substantial international negotiation. The allies will have to be closely involved and, ultimately, give their consent to the union.

"Unless we hurry, East Germany will collapse and before long unification will just not be a relevant question," said one Western source.

However, the declaration of

support by President Gorbachev for reunification yesterday launched East Germany's election campaign on the note which was always going to dominate it—if somewhat earlier than had been planned. The Kremlin's volte face gave a flip to reunification hopes, which continue to spread through East Germany, and also fell inconveniently for the beleaguered communist party on the day that it publicly urged caution in the heated debate.

The glaring gap between Moscow's new line of *laissez-faire* and the persistent anxiety of the Socialist Unity (communist) Party has never been clearer than it was yesterday.

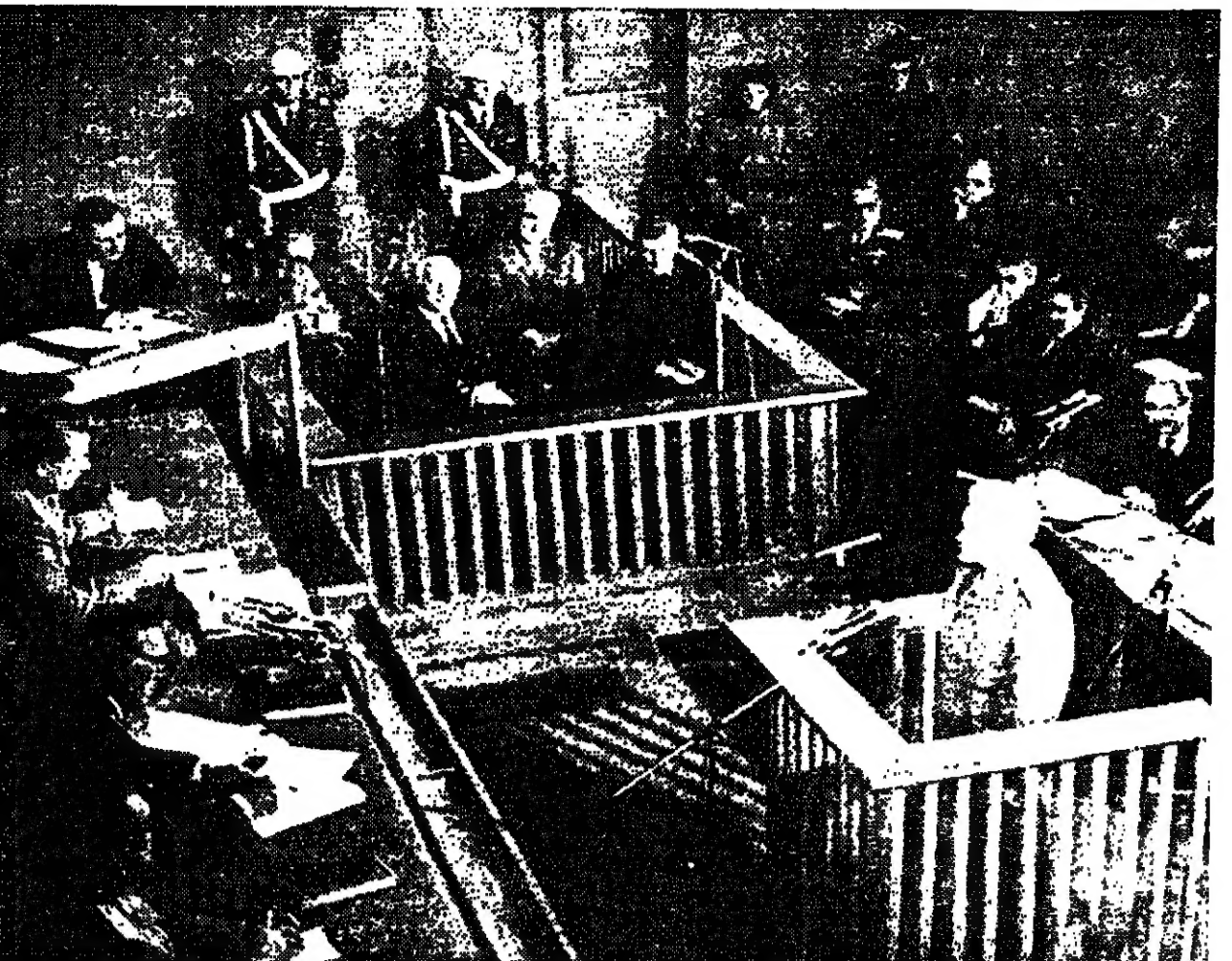
At the very hour when President Gorbachev was declaring self-determination a German right, Herr Jochen Wierling, the Communist Party's spokesman on international affairs, was announcing to the East Berlin press that the party's election programme included "the maintenance of two German states and the social, political and cultural identity and independence of the GDR".

The East German communist party is now the only mainstream party contending the March elections to oppose reunification in the foreseeable future. With the people of Dresden and Leipzig taking to the streets by the hundred thousand to demand speedy unity, the party is evidently out of step with the wishes of most East Germans.

The only remaining difference on the issue between the country's centre-left parties, such as New Forum and the Social Democratic Party, and their counterparts on the right—the Christian Democrats and Democratic Awakening—is the intended length of the confederation period that might lead up to reunification.

Leading article, page 15

Ceausescu henchmen hear witness



A Romanian army colonel giving evidence yesterday in Bucharest at the trial for genocide of four of the deposed Nicolae Ceausescu's close collaborators. The hearing was adjourned to allow prosecution and defence to call more witnesses.

Ailing ex-leader released from prison

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

Herr Erich Honecker, East Germany's ailing former leader, was released from jail yesterday after a renewed appeal by his doctor that he was unfit to stay there.

A local judge decided that Herr Honecker, who is recovering from an operation for kidney cancer, should be released from the prison to which he was sent on Monday "on humane grounds".

He will now await trial for treason, corruption and abuse of office at his home. Herr Hans-Jürgen Joseph, the East German Public Prosecutor, said last night that he would

appeal against the move. The indecision over the treatment of the former leader demonstrates the confusion which now reigns within East Germany's justice apparatus.

Accustomed to taking its orders from the communist party, the judiciary is clearly at sea when faced with reaching an independent decision.

The Ministry of Justice has apparently complained to the Public Prosecutor that the charges against Herr Honecker are not specific enough and that the forthcoming trials of leading functionaries could take on the appearance of

show trials. The ministry, having had three ministers in as many months, is incapable of giving clearer guidelines.

Notably absent from the charges is the arms-running which was revealed to have taken place from the port of Rostock. While it is widely believed that Herr Honecker oversaw the business personally, no evidence has yet been produced. The man who was in charge of the export company involved, Herr Alexander Schalch-Golodkowski, has disappeared after his release from a West Berlin jail.

The Public Prosecutors' Office said yesterday that Herr Honecker would stand trial in March. A date has not yet been set because of worries that it could hinder the smooth running of the elections that month. Herr Honecker was sent to a new house in the East Berlin suburb of Pankow, accompanied by a guard.

He and his wife, Margot, the former Education Minister, were last week evicted from their home in the exclusive compound of Wandlitz, now taken over by the Health Ministry for a sanatorium.

US envoy says Nato prepared to accept Europe troop reductions

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

America's Nato allies understood the budget pressures on the Bush Administration and were quite ready to accept US defence cuts and the closing of bases in Europe, Mr William Taft, the US Ambassador to Nato, said yesterday.

But he gave a veiled warning that countries paying far less per head for defence than the US "would come under strong pressure to bear a larger share of the Nato budget, and not to break ranks by unilaterally cutting spending and forces before the conclusion of a Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) agreement later this year."

Mr Taft said allied governments had been urging Washington to deal with its deficit for some time.

American defence spending was still about 25 per cent of the federal budget, and the reductions would not signal any reduction in the US commitment to the alliance.

The US would continue to fulfil its force goals, and while the cuts were significant, they were still only 20 per cent of the largest European defence programme.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Taft, who was Deputy Defence Secretary in the Reagan Administration, emphasised the US commitment to maintaining troops in Europe as long as they were requested by the allies.

American troop strength would be adjusted only in consultation with the allies, despite domestic budgetary and congressional pressures.

"That is our commitment. We think it is very important to get the CFE," he said.

He insisted that the Vienna negotiations were the only reliable way to ensure that Warsaw Pact reductions were irreversible.

Despite promises of Soviet troop cuts in Eastern Europe, these had not yet occurred. It would be a "terrible mistake" if Nato governments thought that they did not need CFE and began unilateral reductions.

Mr Taft said: "The CFE offers monitoring, verification procedures, notification procedures—a whole structure which would make an immense contribution to stability on the continent."

He was careful not to criticise Belgium and other smaller Nato members which have already

suggested cutting forces because of the changing East-West situation. But he noted pointedly that countries bearing the largest burden were less insistent on cuts, and suggested that some countries had already taken their "peace dividend".

Burden-sharing would continue to be a divisive issue in the alliance, he believed, even at a time of general reductions.

Some countries, such as the US, were now paying three times as much for defence per head as others.

"The reduction exercise, if it comes, should take into account the current contributions of the different allies, and make an effort to improve the balance."

The US defence reductions had been largely expected by allied

governments, and were preceded by close consultations. Mr Taft believed there was still strong public support, even in West Germany, for a strong US presence in Europe, despite the rapidly changing situation.

Mr Taft did not see immediate pressure for further cuts, although he agreed there was a general public perception that arms control negotiations were out of step with political developments in Europe.

He did not think there was a danger that rapid Soviet troop withdrawals from Eastern Europe would increase pressure in Western Europe for further US cuts, below the 275,000 proposed in the CFE talks.

There were "downward pressures" on all Nato members'

defence budgets. But Mr Taft hoped that any opportunities for reductions would be analyzed within the alliance and the pace and course could be agreed.

The ambassador was sceptical of the assertion, made by Mrs Thatcher among others, that the Warsaw Pact was like Nato, an important pillar of stability in Europe and was vital to bloc-to-bloc arms talks.

It was indeed more "convenient" for arms negotiators to have a single bloc to deal with. But the West would have to adapt to a different way of negotiating if the Warsaw Pact changed to a more democratic structure.

But any change was up to its members to decide; the West should not try to interfere.

And Mr Taft said 40 years of

history suggested that much had to change before the Warsaw Pact could be seen as an equivalent of Nato.

He said that, in the new emphasis on a political role, Nato would naturally overlap with some of the existing bodies and institutions in Europe—such as the European Community—and the US.

But Nato would still perform the vital and unique function of drawing together Europe and North America on matters of common interest.

And to the sceptics of Nato's future role, Mr Taft declared: "We can't achieve our own security without the alliance, and I think the European understanding of that is the same."

Army's role, page 14

Communist light dims in Honecker's town

From Our Own Correspondent, Wiebelskirchen, Saarland

Just over two years ago the local communists here turned out to welcome their most famous former citizen, Herr Erich Honecker, hopeful that this nostalgic visit to his home town would revive support for their crumbling cause.

Today, however, Herr Honecker is disgraced and the collapse of the communist party he led in East Germany has virtually destroyed the party here. In the elections on Sunday in Saarland, the local communists managed to win only 0.2 per cent of the vote.

That was twice as good as the average communist turnout in the Saar, but showed that two out of every three party voters had abandoned it

since the last state election five years ago. Then 233 people voted communist, just over 5 per cent of the votes cast.

On Sunday, the figure dropped to 74 and virtually all of those were elderly people, with memories of the party's heyday in the immediate post-war period.

Frau Gertrud Hoppstädter, aged 71, is sad and confused. Until a few months ago she was proud to be pointed out as Herr Honecker's sister. She remembered with pride that Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the outright winner for the Social Democrats in Sunday's elections, had described her brother two years ago as the most famous local boy.

Now she prefers to stay in her home in Kuchenberg Strasse, near its junction with Karl Marx Strasse, thinking about the past when her miner father taught his family about communism.

It is still easy to see where those political beliefs came from. The giant wheel above the mine shaft still looms over the town. Smoke from the factory chimneys of the Saar valley drift across it. The hills are often just huge black mounds of pit waste. The Saarland, struggling to restructure its heavy industry, is still one of West Germany's unemployment black spots.

However, 70 years ago, the Saarland dirt was even more

fertile ground for the growth of communism. Now, along with its local hero and inspiration, the party has also lost its paymaster. With only tiny support nationwide, it does not qualify for federal cash and has survived largely with the help of an estimated DM 23 million (£7 million) a year from East Germany.

The cash flow has now stopped.

Nationally and locally, the party has split between the reformers and the old guard, who are few. Herr Werner Zins, the leader of the local party branch in which the young Honecker played the drum recently died of cancer and was buried near the black

stone monument to Herr Honecker's father in the churchyard. The others, like Frau Hoppstädter, are scarcely active.

The younger reformers, headed by Herr Armin Moses, aged 42, are struggling to drag the party out of the shadow of Herr Honecker and trying at the same time to find a cause, which makes the party different from the radical Social Democrats or the Greens.

A similar split has opened up nationally, with the estimated national party membership of 35,000 a year ago, fragmented with a rump of no more than 10,000 "reformers" trying to live down the shameful Honecker legacy.

Havel's diplomatic roadshow in top gear

By Daniel Treisman

As politicians from Berlin to Sofia ponder their region's fluid future, probably the most active would-be architect of new East European political relations is President Havel of Czechoslovakia, the playwright and former dissident.

In visits to Warsaw and Budapest last week, he repeated calls for the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from East European states and for the creation of closer ties between Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

The latest trip came at the end of a month-long flurry of diplomatic initiatives, which began with visits to Berlin and Munich days after he was elected President in December and culminated in an invitation to the superpowers to hold their next summit in Prague. His Government has promised to reopen relations

with Israel and the Vatican, and to end the country's profitable arms exports.

Mr Havel has asked the Soviet Union to remove its 75,000 troops from Czechoslovak territory by the end of the year, half of them by the June 8 parliamentary elections, at which time he has said he will resign.

Visits to Moscow and Washington are scheduled within the next few weeks at which Mr Havel is expected to unveil new disarmament initiatives, and he also plans to travel to Scandinavia, The Netherlands and Israel.

In the latest initiative, Mr Havel yesterday announced that he had invited Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to visit Czechoslovakia and had offered to mediate in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Behind the whirlwind of diplomacy, lies a desire to

see Czechoslovakia "return to Europe" after four decades of Soviet domination and play a more significant part on the world stage.

Dr Alex Pravda, an expert on the region at St Antony's College, Oxford, said: "Many Czechs would quite like to see the country going back to the experience of the inter-war period, when Czechoslovakia

tried to carve out some sort of role as a mediator."

Mr Havel has suggested the formation of some sort of confederation between Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia, and last week he invited the leaders of Poland, Hungary, Austria, Italy and Yugoslavia, to a Central European summit meeting at Bratislava in April.

President Havel's aim appears to be the creation of co-operative arrangements which could provide the region-wide structure missing in Central Europe since the Habsburg Empire collapsed.

He has also urged the East European countries to resist being drawn into competition in the rush to return to the West and attract much-needed foreign aid.

Such a confederation would provide at least some counter-balance to the strong German economic presence expected

in Eastern Europe. One of Mr Havel's first pronouncements in office was to say that a reunified Germany, if democratic, would be no threat.

But though self-determination for the East Germans is something Czechoslovakia could, on moral grounds, not easily oppose, the German question does prompt some ambivalence.

President Havel's controversial apology for the forced evacuation of Sudeten Germans to Austria after the Second World War is viewed by many Czechoslovaks as one of the few gifts that tarnish his soaring popularity.

His experience of foreign affairs until recently consisted largely of contacts with Western writers and dissidents from other Eastern European movements—contacts which are now proving oddly useful as other former dissidents are swept into positions of power.



Mr Havel: Moral credentials give him credibility abroad.

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Communists offer olive branch to Sofia opposition

From Ernest Beck, Sofia, Bulgaria

Faced with a deteriorating economy, labour unrest and widespread public mistrust, Mr Petur Mladenov, the General Secretary of the ruling Bulgarian Communist Party, yesterday made a cautious appeal to the opposition to form a coalition transitional government before multi-party elections due in May.

Speaking to the opening session of an extraordinary party congress, Mr Mladenov said the Communists were ready to share power with "any party if it was serious about ending the country's profound economic and political crisis."

Mr Peter Beron, a leader of the United Democratic Front, an opposition umbrella group, said that the proposal was a trap to deceive the population and to neutralize the opposition. "They still control all the levers of government and the machinery of decision-making," he said. "They want to use us as window-dressing to help repair a crumbling economy, to cool down discontent and to blunt our effectiveness. We will not solve their problems for them."

The olive branch to the opposition, to be presented at the round table talks, is seen as a desperate move to accommodate the opposition's popularity, and to forestall proposals for a transitional government excluding the Communists.

In a further attempt to regain public confidence, Mr Mladenov's address to the Congress contained a scathing attack on Mr Todor Zhivkov, the discredited former leader. He described Mr Zhivkov

as "an egoist and a maniac with no intellectual capabilities", whose totalitarian regime had corrupted the party and the state.

Mr Mladenov, who was Mr Zhivkov's Foreign Minister for 18 years, claimed to have opposed his rule long before he engineered Mr Zhivkov's downfall in November.

"Let us praise all those Communist Party members who took risks to oppose this tyrant," he said.

While Mr Mladenov castigated the former leader and called for a complete "de-Stalinization" of the party and



Mr Mladenov: Communists might agree to share power.

an end to corruption and nepotism, he declared that the party would still be based on "essential Marxist thinking and scientific socialism."

The party's goal was to create a democratic and humane socialism, he said.

He mocked unnamed forces in the party who proposed renouncing socialism and introducing private property and capitalism, saying such a move would cause a "social cataclysm and anarchy".

The hardline speech was a

warning to a renegade liberal wing, known as the Alternative Socialists, who would like the party to dissociate itself from Marxist thinking while retaining principles of social democracy.

The Alternative Socialists say they will form their own party if their platform is rejected at the congress.

The Communist Party has agreed to give up its legally guaranteed leading role and to embrace a multi-party democracy based on free elections. Until now, it has consistently refused to abandon its tight grip on all aspects of public life until after elections.

However, Mr Mladenov who is party leader as well as Bulgaria's President, said he would abandon one post if re-elected because the Communists support a complete separation of party and state.

The Communists are also promising a purge of the remnants of the Zhivkov era and a thorough democratization of the party.

The party's proposed economic policy remains vague. It calls for "socially-oriented market principles", different forms of ownership and a large role for the state in economic life, all of which Mr Mladenov claims is not ideological deviation, but "logical Marxist conclusions".

Western observers here say Mr Mladenov and the party have been shaken by the opposition's growing strength, which have been demonstrated by its ability to mobilize 300 wildcat strikes in the past two weeks. Hospital workers in Sofia yesterday staged a walkout to back demands for the Health Minister to resign.

Masked face of Soviet response to Azerbaijan's ethnic tension



Moscow's special KGB troops, given a sinister appearance by their face masks, and with automatic rifles, patrolling in the vicinity of the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, yesterday.

Kremlin ready to support unofficial talks

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

A senior Soviet official said yesterday that if unofficial peace talks between the two warring republics in the Transcaucasus brought a positive result, Moscow would support them.

It was also revealed that the Communist Party leadership in Moscow has set up a special Central Committee department to examine relations with minority nationalities in the Soviet Union, a move which indicates the depth of Kremlin concern.

Mr Vyacheslav Mikhailov, who is deputy head of the new department, told journalists that he knew nothing about the talks.

Representatives of the Popular Front movements of Azerbaijan and Armenia are due to start talks in Baku, the Azeri capital, tomorrow, under the auspices of the Baltic Council. Mr Mikhailov said that he had spent the past three weeks in the Transcaucasus examining the situation and he questioned the ban on foreign journalists visiting Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, suggesting that the city might soon be opened.

Giving a day-by-day account of how Soviet troops had come to launch their armed assault on Baku — the first such account to have been given by any high-level Communist Party official — Mr Mikhailov emphasized what he saw as the subversive nature of the Azerbaijani Popular Front organization.

He said that the front had been taken over by "extreme left and even terrorist elements" which had forced people to join their move-

ment. He explained the desertion of nearly 20,000 people from the Communist Party and the burning of party cards as actions taken under duress.

He claimed that when the army entered Baku, the Popular Front had not only seized control of many local government and party offices, but had taken over the television station, summoned all Azerbaijanis to arms in an attempt to regain the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh by force and "smashed" Azerbaijan's border with Iran.

He also insisted that on the night of the assault, the first shots had been fired by the nationalists and the first casualties had been Soviet soldiers.

Although his account was punctuated with expressions of concern to preserve life and end bloodshed, it seemed to support the view of the military action given by the Defence Minister, General Dmitri Yazov — who said that military action was mounted to crush the nationalist movement — rather than that of the Foreign Minister, Mr Edvard Shevardnadze, who has insisted that its sole purpose was to save lives.

Given Mr Mikhailov's position, it is likely that his version of events will form the basis of the Communist Party leaders' assessment of what happened in Azerbaijan.

In Baku, the situation was reported to be quiet, but another 100 people were said to have been detained overnight and trains with food and fuel supplies were still unable to reach the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

Moldavian nationalism

Saint inspires a dream

From Susan Simpson, Kishinev

Every evening, dozens of radicals make the pilgrimage to the statue here of Stefan the Great, the sixteenth-century Moldavian ruler, to string up banners, light candles and argue fiercely about the issues of the day.

Since the Romanian revolution last month, the talk beside Stefan's cloaked stone figure has been dominated by the question of reunification with Romania. "With God's help, if we struggle, it will happen by the end of the year," Mr Dmitri Rungan, aged 82, said quietly. As he finished speaking, the crowd around him noisily agreed.

The upheaval in Romania, Moldova's western neighbour, added a new dimension to the nationalist fervour which swept this tiny republic of four million people last year.

Moldavia was carved out largely of Romanian territory. In 1940 Stalin annexed the region, known as Bessarabia, in an act sanctioned by the Nazi-Soviet pact signed on the eve of the Second World War.

The Soviet authorities have since fostered the idea that the peoples of Romania and Moldavia are different.

But the restless radicals at Stefan's statue in the heart of the Moldavian capital insist that Moldavians and Romanians share a history, a language and, they hope, a future.

"You can say we have been divided," said Mrs Maya Tsuratkin, aged 30, her face looking solemn in the flickering light of the candles. "Our relatives live there (in Romania) and we live here. We belong together."

Mr Yevgeni Sobor dismisses such statements as "emotionalism". Mr Sobor, aged 48, is the Communist

Party's ideology chief in Moldova. The calls for reunification have clearly put the leadership of the republic on the defensive, but Mr Sobor counters them skilfully. "Recently I met with intellectuals," he said. "We discussed the values of dignity and pride."

"We agreed that we should bow neither to Moscow or Bucharest."

Mr Sobor is one of the progressive new party leaders installed in the Moldavian Government last year after violent disturbances rocked Kishinev.

On November 7, the republic's traditional parade to commemorate the 1917 Revolution was disrupted by protesters. The police arrested about 20 people.

Three days later, thousands of people stormed the Interior Ministry building in the city, throwing stones and petrol bombs and demanding the release of the detainees. The police responded with tear-gas and water-cannon. On November 16, the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee dismissed Mr Semyon Grossu, the party chief, and replaced him with Mr Pyotr Luchinsky.

Mr Luchinsky moved fast in an attempt to soothe a troubled republic. He admitted that the Moldavian party had been slow to embrace reform and had thereby fuelled tensions. He opened a dialogue with various groups, including the republic's mass movement, the Popular Front.

The Front, like similar movements in the Baltic republics, has led the campaign for greater national awareness and autonomy. In September, it won recognition of Moldavian (Romanian) as

the official language of the republic. The more radical Front members maintain that the local party's new approach merely masks the old ways.

"There are no real changes," said Mr Andrei Tsurkany, aged 41, a senior Front member. "It doesn't look as though there will be until there is some other party to compete with the Communist Party."

But Mr Luchinsky's offensive apparently caught the Front off guard. There have been reports of deep divisions within the movement.

The eruption in Romania has added a complex and highly charged issue to the political agenda.

Mr Tsurkany believes that reunification with Romania could take place one day, but only after Moldavia develops greater political sophistication and wins its independence.

"I'm pinning big hopes on a new party," he said. "If it's properly organized, this party could do wonders in one year."

Mr Tsurkany's ideas horrify non-Moldavians in the republic, mostly Russians and Ukrainians. Many are bitter about the new language law which will make Moldavian a requirement for most jobs within a few years. For some, anger has turned to fear.

"It's not just that the Communist Party has abandoned us," said Mr Anatoli Lisetsky, aged 50, the leader of a non-Moldavian group, Unity.

"It is the central Government in Moscow, too."

"If they had not shown confusion, if they had been able to assess the dramatic situation of the Russian-speaking population, then they would have been able to take appropriate measures to avoid a confrontation."

Kosovo guerrilla war fear

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

The situation in Yugoslavia's protest-hit Kosovo took a dramatic turn for the worse yesterday, increasing fears of inter-communal clashes, when mobs of thousands of Christian Serbs and Muslim Albanians angrily faced each other across a cordon of riot police in the village of Mogile, about 25 miles south of Pristina, the region's capital.

In many other parts of Kosovo, in defiance of government warnings, thousands of Albanians stopped work to stage fresh demonstrations against police killings. In several villages demonstrators put up road blocks, often surrounding police, who had to be rescued by helicopter.

In some parts of the region,

witnesses said, "real guerrilla warfare is being waged".

Mr Ante Markovic, Yugoslavia's Prime Minister, has sent Mr Zivko Pregl, his deputy, and General Peter Gracanin, the Interior Minister, to the region as it is clear that the liberal reforms he introduced a month ago are in jeopardy.

The unrest, which has continued for a week — claiming at least 16 lives — shows no signs of abating. It has come at a time when Yugoslavia seemed to have reached consensus on Mr Markovic's programme, leading to hopes that the country could solve its many problems.

Now, however, the unrest is calling into question whether Yugoslavia can function at all, especially with the republics even more divided than before,

as Serbs accuse Slovenia and Croatia, the northern republics, of inciting Albanian separatists.

The federal Government joined the country's highest authority, the collective State Presidency, in demanding that demonstrations in Kosovo should end immediately and warned that the continuation of separatist activities in the region threatened Yugoslavia's integrity, the freedoms and rights of its citizens, and the liberal reforms themselves.

Slovenia has threatened to break off all relations with Serbia if police repression continues in Kosovo and has already announced that it will withdraw its police units from the federal police force which has been stationed in the region for more than a year.

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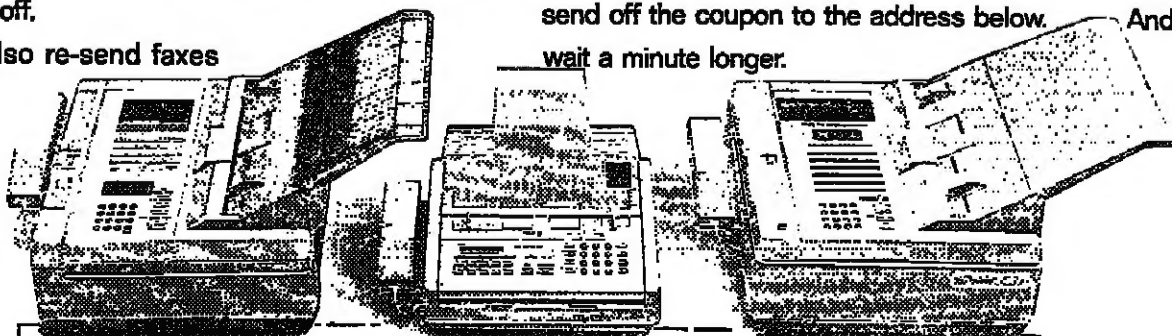
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Bush budget under attack on deficit and defence fronts

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

They are calling it a "Rip Van Winkle" budget, a "Play It Again Sam" budget, and a "take-two-aspirin-and-see-in-the-morning" budget.

On Capitol Hill, no fanfare of trumpets has greeted President Bush's first full-scale effort at steering the world's largest economy. Rather, it has evoked muffled drumbeats portending nine months of bitter wrangling.

Democrats, the media and some Republicans have levelled two main charges against the 1,269-page document the President issued on Monday. It was not a serious attempt to solve America's chronic budget deficit problem, they contended. Moreover, although domestic problems were crying out for money, the defence budget seemed to ignore the fact that the Cold War had ended.

"At a time when we need bold leadership, what we have here is another slide-by-slide budget," said Mr Leon Panetta, chairman of the House Budget Committee, and therefore a key figure in the forthcoming struggle.

"This budget aims low and shoots even lower," said Mr James Sasser, his Senate counterpart. It was as "cold as leftovers and warmed-over Reagan".

The budget claims that the deficit will be reduced from a projected \$128 billion (£76.2 billion) this year to \$63.1 billion (£37.6 billion) in 1991, just inside the \$64 billion limit required by deficit reduction legislation.

Working on the theory that if spending is restrained the economy can outgrow the deficit, it insists the budget will be balanced by 1993. Democrats counter that the

\$63.1 billion figure is reached through unacceptable spending cuts on programmes such as Medicare, bogus revenue-raising measures such as the President's cherished capital-gains-tax cut, and, most important, on such unjustifiably optimistic economic assumptions as 3.3 per cent growth in 1991 and a 2 per cent fall in interest rates.

"We've seen this before," said Mr Robert Reischauer, director of the Congressional Budget Office. "It sends just the wrong signal to Congress—that it's OK to use optimistic economic assumptions and smoke and mirrors to achieve the Gramm-Rudman deficit targets."

Congress may ultimately go along with the Administration's fiscal austerities because it too fears the hard decisions, particularly in a mid-term election year. But there is no way that it will agree a Pentagon budget of \$295 billion, just 2 per cent less in real terms than 1990, which preserves unscathed all the big-ticket programmes dreamt up in the Cold War era.

"This budget reads like it was written in 1980," said Mr Richard Gephardt, Democrat leader of the House, Senator Edward Kennedy said: "It's a Rip Van Winkle budget that has not yet awakened to the changes in the world or the major challenges at home."

Senator Sasser was scathing about the Administration's defence budget. "You'd think Joe Stalin had come back and entrenched himself in the Kremlin," he said.

Democrats will set their sights on the proposed \$4.6 billion allocation for the Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars), \$5.5 billion for

the Stealth B2 bomber and \$2.8 billion for the MX mobile missile. But they are in danger of trapping themselves: they will be simultaneously fighting base closures in their home districts.

The media is echoing many of the Democrats' criticisms. *The New York Times* declared the unmodified defence budget a "monumental missed opportunity".

Senator Sasser predicts "a long, divisive and potentially paralysing debate".

Early last year Congress and the White House reached a tentative budget agreement which later collapsed amid acrimony, but there is no prospect of even a preliminary agreement this year.

Mr Richard Darman, the White House budget director, commented: "I think we will see partisan posturing, which is natural... After that I hope we will get down to constructive work." He pledged to try working with Congress, saying: "I'm going to be chairman Darman again."

Even Republican congressmen were muted in their support for the budget and some were openly critical. Mr Mark Hatfield, the senior Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the modest defence cut had "not gone far enough".

Failure to agree a budget by October would trigger automatic across-the-board spending cuts.

That crude and indiscriminate device was originally designed as the ultimate deterrent to economic paralysis. As Congress and the White House annually display their chronic inability to tackle the deficit they increasingly see it as the easy way out.

Appeal for airport curbs



A Japanese farmer kneeling at the feet of Mr Takami Eto, the Transport Minister, in a plea yesterday to stop the expansion of Tokyo international airport at Narita, east of the capital.

De Klerk faces mass protest on keynote speech

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

South African police have warned that they may be forced to disperse anti-apartheid demonstrations planned for Cape Town this week, and have advised the public to stay away from their own safety.

The threat of violent confrontations before and during the opening of Parliament by President de Klerk in the city on Friday coincides with the growing strife surrounding the rebel England cricket tour.

Despite efforts by both opponents and organizers of the tour to keep the protests peaceful, police firing tear gas clashed with stone-throwing demonstrators in a black township outside Bloemfontein, South Africa's judicial capital, shortly before play began there yesterday.

A police spokesman said 45 people were arrested after a large crowd had gathered illegally. The National Sports Council, which is orchestrating opposition to the tour, claimed that more than 200 people had been arrested and 30 injured.

The chief magistrate of Bloemfontein later authorized a peaceful demonstration at the cricket ground and protesters began assembling during the lunch break.

Dr Ali Bacher, the managing director of the South African Cricket Union, said: "From the police and cricketing side, everything will be done to show the utmost restraint, and to ensure that cricket can be played without interruption."

The main thrust of anti-apartheid activity this week is planned for Cape Town, where mass organizations have vowed to stage protest marches, in defiance of the emergency regulations, to coincide with the opening of Parliament. The United Dem-

ocratic Front, a surrogate of the banned African National Congress, has obtained the city council's permission for two marches, but has refused to apply for judicial authorization as required by law.

Miss Cheryl Carolus, a front official, said peaceful assembly was a constitutional right and not a presidential privilege. "We are on the threshold of a new era. The pace will not be set by Mr de Klerk, but by the people of South Africa," she added.

However, a senior police spokesman said the police would have no discretion to allow the marches to proceed unless permission had been granted by the Minister of Justice or a magistrate.

The first march, from a Methodist church to the central police headquarters, is planned for today to protest against the repression of previous demonstrations.

Another organization has applied for permission to march to the President's official residence tomorrow to demand a judicial commission of inquiry into allegations that police "death squads" have murdered anti-apartheid activists.

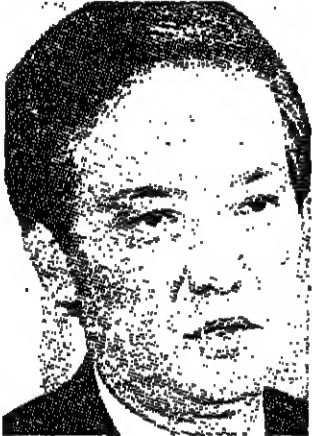
The final event, planned to begin as Mr de Klerk addresses the opening session of Parliament, is billed as the climax to a week of defiance. A principal demand will be the immediate release of Nelson Mandela, the veteran ANC leader.

The organizers are also demanding the dissolution of the tricameral Parliament, from which blacks are excluded.

In his speech, Mr de Klerk is expected to announce plans for lifting some provisions of the state of emergency, and to reaffirm his intention to free Mandela in the near future.

Tokyo ruling party ready to ditch caretaker Kaifu after election

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo



Mr Kaifu: Stop-gap leader after Recruit bribery fiasco.

The Liberal Democrats in Japan seem to have become so confident of continuing their 35-year rule after the general election next month that Mr Toshiki Kaifu, who has been regarded as no more than a stop-gap Prime Minister, may be discarded immediately afterwards.

Mr Shintaro Abe, one of the leaders of the party establishment, seems already to be practising his acceptance speech.

Mr Kaifu has looked more and more uncomfortable in recent weeks. His treatment by the Liberal Democratic Party's hierarchy has looked more and more

shabby. Word is being spread that with Japan-US relations so prickly and with so much still to be negotiated with Washington on trade and market access, Tokyo needs a heavyweight at the helm.

At the same time the Government, which lost control of the upper house in elections last summer in the wake of the Recruit bribery scandal, needs a skilled backroom powerbroker to get opposition parties to allow government legislation through the second chamber. Mr Kaifu has no experience in this peculiarly Japanese political art form.

Insiders say that the timing of Mr Kaifu's departure is all that remains to be decided, although

they feel it is unlikely that he will be representing Japan at this summer's annual summit of world leaders.

Mr Kaifu had known his tenure would last only until the party elite had served its penance for the Recruit fiasco. But he had hoped that if he could deliver a majority for the Government in next month's lower-house polls, he would be rewarded with a few additional months in the post.

Instead, the Liberal Democrat elders seem to have read encouraging opinion polls that give the party a strong lead over the opposition Socialists, as a sign that voters have forgiven them for Recruit. The best jobs in the

Cabinet can once again be handed round the party's fiefdoms like an elaborate game of pass-the-parcel.

Mr Abe, aged 65, a former Foreign Minister, had been next in line to succeed Mr Noboru Takeshita as Prime Minister when the Recruit scandal forced a change of plan. Mr Takeshita, who quit over the affair, shoehorned Mr Sosuke Uno into the job. When Mr Uno tumbled after the press rumoured his taste for bar girls, the clean but lightweight Mr Kaifu was brought in.

Mr Takeshita, who has ruled Japan by remote control since his resignation last summer, has been making light of Mr Kaifu's longevity. He made sure that Mr Abe

visited President Gorbachov in Moscow earlier this month, upstaging Mr Kaifu, who was travelling through Eastern Europe.

Mr Abe's travelling companions included the party's rising stars. Mr Kaifu was described by one observer as "a motley bunch of junior spear-bearers who tagged along for the ride".

Mr Kaifu will not be pushed. He will be expected to jump voluntarily, as one political analyst puts it, "in recognition of Japan's responsibility in the world and his own limitations".

The party's bosses are creating a situation in which, whether the party wins or loses at the polls, Mr Kaifu will be left with no choice

but to step down. Having glimpsed life at the top, the amiable Mr Kaifu may not be that reluctant to depart.

Most cruelly, Mr Kaifu was not even allowed to pick the election date, a Prime Minister's prerogative. Mr Takeshita obliged here as well.

With the help of a Chinese calendar, Mr Takeshita picked Sunday, February 18, a "taian" day. These are believed to be the luckiest kind of days in the Chinese calendar and are commonly picked by Japanese for weddings, house-moving, building, and journeys.

This is certain to be the election day, though it will not be announced until Saturday.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Pinochet plotters escape from jail

Santiago (Reuters) - Fifty Chilean prisoners, several of whom were involved in an attempt on the life of President Pinochet three years ago, broke out of a jail in central Santiago before dawn yesterday through a 50-yard tunnel which came out inside a railway yard, the prison service said in a statement. A spokesman added that most of the escapees were "subversives", the term used by the Government to describe left-wing guerrillas.

A man claiming to represent a political prisoners' organization said in telephone calls to radio stations that the escape was part of a campaign to demand freedom for all the so-called political detainees. The Government denies that Chile has any political prisoners, but human-rights lawyers estimate there are more than 450 people in jail on politically related charges.

Security chief resigns

Buenos Aires - The intelligence chief in Argentina has resigned, joining the Defence Minister, the Central Bank chairman, and the press secretary in leaving the government of President Menem (Michael Soltys writes). The resignation of Señor Juan Bautista Yofre on Monday night follows a government bugging scandal, but the two events are not directly related. Señor Yofre was seen as an obstacle to co-operation with the opposition and had lost faith in his own agency. His relationship with a blonde actress was also not perceived as befitting an intelligence chief.

Beirut tensions grow

West Beirut - Gunmen in east Beirut yesterday blasted portraits of General Michel Aoun, the rebel Christian leader, with rocket-propelled grenades, according to witnesses, increasing fears of violence between Christian factions (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes). The attacks emphasized the deeply divisive tensions between General Aoun and the Christian Phalangist "Lebanese Forces" militia of Mr Samir Geagea, over the legality of President Hrawi's Syrian-backed Government. After the attack the Army took control of two east Beirut Phalangist strongholds.

Oil-spill trial begins

New York - The selection of a jury was set to begin last night in Anchorage at the trial of Mr Joseph Hazelwood, captain of the Exxon Valdez supertanker, which spilled nearly 11 million gallons of oil off Alaska last March (James Bone writes). Mr Hazelwood faces up to seven years in jail and a fine of \$60,000 (£36,000) on charges of criminal mischief, operating a vessel while intoxicated, reckless endangerment and negligent discharge of oil. One of the key issues is whether the former skipper can benefit from an obscure law granting immunity to people who report oil spills.

Gas leak injures 20

Lisbon - Twenty people were injured when 3½ tonnes of toxic chlorine gas escaped into the atmosphere at the Calima cellulose plant on Monday afternoon near the town of Constancia, in central Portugal (Martha de la Cal writes). Eighteen of the injured were company employees and two were firemen.

Superpowers to discuss Afghanistan arms cuts

From Christopher Thomas, Kabul

The United States and the Soviet Union will discuss far-reaching proposals next week for reducing arms supplies both to the Afghan Government and Mujahidin rebels.

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, is understood to have made a secret one-day visit to Kabul several days ago to outline the tentative superpower moves.

The Mujahidin, aware of growing US disenchantment with them, have launched a fierce battle to capture the city of Khost, near the border with Pakistan, in a desperate attempt to prove themselves.

Their aim is to set up a temporary capital there for the tottering Afghan interim government, now based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar. But all the signs are that Khost will not fall.

The rebels' failure will increase the likelihood that the US will soon cut back its

military support. Well-informed sources talk of an imminent superpower agreement that might lead to a severing of arms supplies to both sides.

Washington and Moscow have been sounding each other out for some months about a possible mutual cut in military support.

Firm ideas will be proposed next week at talks between Mr Shevardnadze and Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State. The US will be looking for a sign that the Soviet Union is willing to accept a political solution in which President Najibullah will ultimately step down. It has softened its demand for his immediate removal.

It is accepted that the Mujahidin have almost no chance of capturing any significant city. The Afghan Government claims that two-thirds of the rebels no longer

fight as a result of deals struck with local commanders. Independent observers say there is no doubt that many peace arrangements have been made and are working.

In parts of the country, therefore, the war is effectively over. The Kabul Government has bought peace with money, food, clothing and other supplies, even including weapons. Mujahidin groups that have stopped fighting have not thrown in their allegiance with the Government, but simply discovered a profitable alternative to conflict.

Around Herat in the west and Kandahar in the south, guerrillas have reached truces with government forces.

In Kandahar, Mujahidin fighters wander the city after first handing in their weapons. When they leave they get them back. In some areas, the rebels have formed local militias to keep the peace.

Khashoggi PR machine courts American opinion

From James Bone, New York

Mr Adnan Khashoggi always understood the importance of image. "The richest man in the world" never was quite that, but to the public who followed the Saudi financier's marriage to his British-born wife, Soraya, and their divorce, it never seemed to matter.

Now the portly, well-groomed financier has fallen on hard times - criminal charges in New York resulting from his relationship with Ferdinand and Mrs Imelda Marcos, the former President and First Lady of the Philippines. But he has responded with typical panache.

In an attempt to woo public opinion before his trial, Mr Khashoggi has engaged Mr Howard Rubenstein, the dean of American public relations men who already protects the public images of the likes of Leona Helmsley, the jailed hotel queen, and her arch-

enemy, the real-estate developer, Mr Donald Trump.

Mr Rubenstein accompanies journalists up to the lavish 46th-floor apartment in midtown Manhattan where Mr Khashoggi awaits trial, monitored by an electronic bracelet, and offers them eggs and fresh-squeezed orange juice while they chat to his client.

The image-maker even orchestrated a recent subway (underground) ride for the indicted millionaire, something that was until now a rite of passage only for politicians craving sympathy.

Mr Khashoggi has evidently realized that America has entered an era of "show trials". In these legal encounters, the battle outside court is as important as what happens before the judge, and often seems to affect it.

In the coming months, it is not only Mr Khashoggi and

Mrs Marcos who face trial in New York. Mr Michael Milken, the junk-bond king whose high-risk, high-return financing fed the takeover boom on Wall Street in the last decade, is to be tried for alleged insider trading.

And in Miami, General Manuel Noriega, the ousted Panama dictator, will go on trial on drug charges.

In Washington Mayor Marion Barry faces the misdemeanor charge of smoking crack.

New York has already witnessed the tax-evasion case against Helmsley, author of one of the last decade's most memorable dicta: "Only little people pay taxes."

Helmsley, a Brooklyn hat-maker's daughter, worked hard to counter her public image of being a tough... well, *Newsweek* just said in a front-page headline that the sobriquet "rhymes with rich".

Peking pop star sings a lone song of defiance

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

There is a brave lone voice of dissent coming from a converted garage in the western suburbs of Peking. Hou Dejian - Dykianese pop star and half-hearted hunger striker on Tiananmen Square - has demanded that Mr Li Peng, the Prime Minister, and President Yang Shangkun be driven from office for their role in the June 4 massacre.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Hou said yesterday: "If there were free elections, not 1 per cent of the population would vote for Li Peng. He is blatant in his contempt for what he calls 'the Peking regime' and in apportioning blame for the massacre."

"Li Peng doesn't have enough of a brain to be a professional killer. Yang Shangkun doesn't have enough power to pull all those triggers." Mr Hou implies that only Mr Deng Xiaoping can be held ultimately responsible, but he stops short of uttering the ultimate heresy.

"There should be an investigation of Deng's mistakes, but everyone is innocent until proven guilty," he says of China's paramount leader.

With each passing day, Mr Hou, aged 34, is turning from reluctant rebel into China's only public dissident. When he took part in the final four-person hunger strike in Tiananmen Square last June, he announced that he could not go hungry for long because he had a recording session.

In the early morning of June 4, he helped to negotiate with the Army for the exodus of students from Tiananmen Square. Once he was out of the square, doctors covered him in a sheet as if he were a corpse and carried him out of the danger zone.

Two days later, when he heard that a fellow hunger striker had been arrested, he took refuge in the Australian Embassy. When he came out weeks later, he said on Chinese television that he had seen no one killed in Tiananmen Square. Many Chinese thought he had bought his way out of prison with that interview.

But Mr Hou maintains that he saw no one killed and that he has met no one since who witnessed anyone being killed in the square. He has visited Peking's hospitals and believes that the death toll in that first week of June was 1,000.

"We can't let them relax," he says of the Government. "We can't let them think that people have forgotten. There's no pressure group so my aim is to put as much pressure on the Government as possible by talking about how I feel."

As Mr Hou is the only person in China prepared to go on the record condemning China's leaders, is he the new Fang Lizhi? He laughs: "I'm just an amateur dissident... I hope the others will be able to take over again soon."

He is not allowed to perform and has been "advised" not to leave Peking. He believes his telephone is tapped but says the police have given up following him.

Born in Taiwan, Mr Hou defected to China in 1983 and believes that the official favour heaped on defec-

tors is acting as his protection. "They haven't thought of a way to deal with me yet," he grins. "I don't know how I'd cope with prison, it would be awful to see no pretty girls for so long."

In leather jacket and ankle boots, Mr Hou is the first to admit that he does not have the gravitas expected of a dissident. "I have a real problem being a dissident. I just can't take anything seriously," he says. Beyond endorsing a multi-party system and an end to dictatorship, he has little to say about a political framework for the future. After all, he says: "I'm a musician."

But the equipment in his makeshift studio is dwindling. He does not expect to work for the next year or two, and to make enough to get by he has been selling his most valued possessions. "I had some beautiful guitars," he says wistfully, his hand strumming thin air. He sold his car last month.

Some of those wounded on June 4 came to him for financial help. Mr Hou says that these people cannot

even get work. Having been wounded is proof that you were on the streets during the crackdown, and therefore proof that you are a counter-revolutionary.

Mr Hou expects further unrest. "The longer it takes, the more dangerous. If it doesn't happen in the next four or five months, the pressure will build up." He will go to Tiananmen Square on June 4 to pay his respects to the dead and he expects others will do the same. Never a member of any political party, Mr Hou is not interested in forming an organized opposition.

Recently, he was invited to sing at an official dinner for pro-government Chinese living overseas. With relish, he describes how he stood up and shocked his hosts into silence by saying: "I wrote 'Beautiful Chinese' when I was on hunger strike in Tiananmen Square because all those who demonstrated or went on hunger strike were patriotic, and therefore beautiful... Slaves are all ugly, but in May and June the people of Peking became beautiful."

January 30 1990

PARLIAMENT

Thatcher 'is out of touch' on ambulance row

Mrs Margaret Thatcher persistently repeated her belief that the ambulance workers had been given a fair offer. During sharp questioning from the Opposition benches she was accused of being out of touch with the feelings of the people.

Mr Robert MacLennan (Cardiff South, Lib Dem) said that the Government's dogged inflexibility was the proper response to the exceptional sense of duty shown by the ambulance workers to the injured and dying victims of the gales and tempests this winter.

What greater catastrophe is required to bring home to her the justice of our ambulance workers' case?

Mrs Thatcher said that the Government and management had moved on the ambulance workers' case for more pay. It was the ambulance workers who had not moved at all since the union, long ago, recommended accepting 6.5 per cent.

The Government had moved to an 18-month settlement, which offered an increase of between 9 per cent and 16.3 per cent, a very considerable increase, which would cost £5 million more this financial year.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said that the Government's response to the statement by church leaders yesterday calling for the Government to set up an independent inquiry to resolve the ambulance dispute.

Mrs Thatcher referred to her earlier reply and said that the Government had moved on the dispute. There was already a negotiating body to negotiate.

Mr Kinnock said that Mrs Thatcher had already spent £10 million of public money on keeping the dispute going, which was more than it would cost to settle it.

"Where is the sense for the public, the ambulance personnel or even the Government, when the public so clearly supports the ambulance workers' case and that she is so completely out of touch with the feelings of the people?"

Mrs Thatcher said that the sense was to stick to established means of negotiation, whether by the review body for the White Collar, or by the independent body for those who had honoured their own method of negotiation and had settled, as had 85 per cent of the NHS staff in the early summer.

PRIME MINISTER

"It is a great pity that the ambulance workers did not accept the advice of their union and settle then."

Mr Anthony Lloyd (Stretford, Lab) asked why she was so quick to praise the ambulance staff and so slow to pay them.

Mrs Thatcher agreed that she was quick to praise them, as she was all health service staff - 85 per cent of whom had accepted pay increases of between 6.3 and 6.5 per cent last summer. The ambulance workers were being offered increases of between 9 and 16.3 per cent over 18 months. That was an increased pay offer which they had rejected.

Mrs Thatcher said that the ambulance workers had themselves a democratic - and if so, why doesn't she listen to the views of the people and agree to binding arbitration so that this dispute can be brought to an end?

Mrs Thatcher said that the ambulance people had their own negotiating body, through which negotiation could take place.

Dame Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C) said that the ambulance workers had not always been straightforward in this matter (Labour protests). The 9 per cent increase on offer was backdated to April 1989. That should be taken into account.

Mrs Thatcher agreed that for those who had stayed at their posts there were sums of between £650 and £1,400 to be picked up.

Mr Paul Boateng (Brent South, Lab) asked why the Prime Minister continued to set her face like stone against a settlement while giving £40 million in tax handouts to private medical insurance.

"If she were to fall under a bus tomorrow (Labour cheers and laughter) - it would have to be a very brave bus - would she call Bupa or an ambulance?"

Mrs Thatcher said that the offer made was fair and reasonable.

Mr Kinnock said that the Prime Minister continued to set her face like stone against a settlement while giving £40 million in tax handouts to private medical insurance.

Mr Kinnock said that the Prime Minister continued to set her face like stone against a settlement while giving £40 million in tax handouts to private medical insurance.

ination Bill under the 10-minute rule, said that if those taking part in today's rallies had been in Eastern Europe, Conservative MPs would regard them as heroes.

The public who attended these rallies were showing support for ambulance crews on whose skills in saving lives they could depend in a emergency - skills seen in action last week when crews who had not been paid since before Christmas turned out to attend casualties in gale force storms.

The Government had begun the dispute to avoid going to arbitration and was now too stubborn to sit round the table and negotiate unless the staff surrendered first. Throughout the five months of this dispute the Secretary of State (Mr Kenneth Clarke) had never once sat down with the staff side in an effort to find a solution.

The price of cover by the police alone now exceeded £13 million. The bill for Army cover must now be well over £5 million. The health service was now paying the police and the Army £2 million a week to do the job that ambulance staff could do better. Why was the money not used to settle the dispute rather than prolong it?

His Bill would extend to the ambulance staff the same pay mechanism that was enjoyed by the other emergency services.

Mrs Thatcher had said in 1978 that all three services deserved to have their pay negotiated outside the arena of industrial dispute. She was right then and wrong now in refusing to admit that the same logic still stood. It would give ambulance staff a guarantee they would receive a fair award.

"More important, it would give public and patients a guarantee that these vital emergency services need never again be disrupted by dispute."

Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton, C), opposing the Bill, said that the review bodies were to settle pay and conditions of professional staff who had not been in industrial dispute. Unions representing ambulance staff had never suggested that they were prepared to forgo industrial action.

How could one justify substantially higher pay rises for ambulance staff compared with other NHS staff? Against the background of the offer and other settlements in the NHS, there was nothing dishonourable in the union's saying that it would like to return to the negotiating table.



Mrs Edwina Currie (left) at the opening yesterday of a new branch in Langham Place, central London, of Brook Street, the employment agency. With her is Mrs Kathleen Pampelloune, the mother of six children, who has recently resumed a career after 23 years.

Statement: Agriculture

Cash help for sheep farmers

Sheep farmers in hill and upland areas are to get extra help from the Government. Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, announced in a statement.

He said that the Government's commitment to these areas was demonstrated by an increase in the rate of hill livestock compensatory allowance (HLCA) of 75p an animal. It would cost £5.2 million in a full year.

The increase came after a review of the less favoured areas, which showed that the average net farm income of livestock producers in the hill and upland areas were forecast to fall in 1989-90, after an increase in the previous year.

In particular, there had been a reduction in the incomes of specialist sheep producers in high hill areas where opportunities to diversify were limited.

"The Government is proposing to increase the rate of hill livestock compensatory allowance payable under the 1990 scheme on hill bred ewes maintained in the severely disadvantaged parts of our less favoured areas."

"The rate per head ewe will be increased by 75p, from £6.75 to £7.50 per animal. All other HLCA rates and conditions remain unchanged in 1990." Effect would be given

to the rate increase as soon as possible. The £5.2 million annual increase would take total HLCA payments to about £125 million a year.

There was new provision in the European Community regulations that allowed member states to include measures in the HLCA scheme to take account of environmental requirements. The HLCA already provided a significant contribution in terms of environmental benefits, but the Government would look carefully at whether that should be made more specific.

Mr David Clark, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said that the increase in HLCA for sheep was welcome. The level had been frozen for four years.

There was a serious omission in the statement in that there was no mention of HLCA for cattle. Mr Gummer had missed a great opportunity for improving the environment of the upland areas by refusing to uprate the level of support for cattle.

That was doubly so when beef rears were facing falling prices for their cattle due to the effects of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy and the Government's mismanagement of that crisis.

Mr Gummer said that there were an infinite number of subjects which he could

have referred to, but it would not have related to the statement.

Last year the increase in real terms in the incomes of livestock producers was 19 per cent. Therefore it was not appropriate to make the increase in the payments. This year it was estimated that there would be a fall in real terms and he wanted to do something helpful about it.

He rejected the suggestion that the Government had not taken action on BSE. "We have put the health of the public first, foremost and entirely, and at the same time we have sought to help the farming community out of a difficult position."

Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, Lab Dem) said that it was a kick in the teeth for the industry. The level of the green pound was disadvantageous to the farmers seeking export opportunities.

Mr Gummer said that he fought extremely hard for a change in the green pound rates. He was extremely concerned that Britain was being discriminated against. But he was determined to win through because it was important to the future of British farming.

Mr George Foulkes (Cumbria, Cumbria and Don Valley, Lab) said that the increase failed to keep up with inflation and did not meet the demands of farmers.

Piecemeal cuts in defence 'would be fatal'

PRIME MINISTER

It would be fatal at the present time of great uncertainty to make piecemeal reductions in Britain's defences, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said during question time.

Mr Cyril Townsend (Bexleyheath, C) had said that, faced with the historic uncertainty in Europe, and the collapse of law and order in East Germany, the piecemeal cuts in defence were a "peace dividend" was premature (Conservative cheers).

"Would it not be prudent for the United Kingdom to look to the Conventional Forces in Europe talks in Vienna for serious negotiations rather than slashing our defences unilaterally?"

Mrs Thatcher agreed. She said that the right way was to negotiate conventional force reductions in Vienna. In that way we had managed to get reductions in the Warsaw Pact forces - larger reductions than on NATO's side - and some verification.

"We are already considering precisely how the reduction should be shared out equitably."

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, asked what was going wrong with Anglo-American negotiations. The US President was cutting defence by 2 per cent, further reductions were emerging more quickly and deeper in the CFE negotiations, and Pres-

ident Bush was advocating a NATO defence review.

Mrs Thatcher had refused to do any of these things and the two governments could not even split their difference between six and twelve months on compulsory repatriation for the Vietnamese boatpeople.

Mrs Thatcher said that US defence spending was a much bigger proportion of their national income than any other important NATO country. The US spent 6 per cent and the UK 4 per cent.

"So I do not think that he can criticise the US if it makes some changes."

Any changes in CFE which affected the balance of power in Europe were made through NATO first so that members were consulted and agreed with what should go forward to CFE.

The difference of opinion on repatriation was possibly caused by US history in Vietnam where it lost 55,000 people in a fight that had back Communism long enough for it not to extend throughout the area.

"We shall go forward of course with compulsory repatriation."

Henry Stanhope, page 14

HIV cash payments start now

Arrangements for paying ex-gratia sums to haemophilia sufferers contaminated with the HIV virus have been completed and payments are to begin immediately.

Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Minister for Health, said in a Commons written reply. A new discretionary trust called the Macfarlane Howard (HIV Payments) Trust had been set up to administer the payments.

Closure 'is false economy'

Criticism of the withdrawal of government funds from the Agricultural and Food Research Council was expressed at questions.

It might be short-sighted, said Mrs Alan Howard (Thanet South, C), to withdraw funding "for the specialist meat laboratories in Bristol just at a time when there are anxieties on issues such as mad-cow disease". He said that it was a false economy to cut back on £1.6 million of spending on an industry that earns over £8 billion.

The vacancy rate for teachers in secondary schools shown in the annual survey last year was 1.2 per cent, broadly the same as in 1979. Mrs Alan Howard, Under Secretary for Education and Science, said in a Commons written reply.

Bull fights

There is no legal basis in the Treaty of Rome to justify European Community intervention on bull-fighting, Mr David Maclean, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, said in a Commons written reply.

Mr Teddy Taylor (South East, C) had asked that the EC should produce measures to ban bull-fighting.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland. Debates on Liberal Democrat motions on the EC and developments in Eastern Europe and on small businesses and the self-employed.

Lords (2.30): Debate on education and training.

Bill 'a union cold war leftover'

The following report of later speeches in the Commons debate on the second reading of the Employment Bill appeared in part in later editions yesterday.

Mr Tony Blair, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said that the Bill was a leftover from the old agenda of the industrial cold war.

Eleven years on, MPs were still being told that it was the trade unions that were to blame for Britain's ills. But it was the lack of a Cabinet minister that was to blame.

Much in the Bill was wrong, damaging and unfair. All forms of sympathy and secondary action would be banned, a proposition manifestly unfair and unreasonable.

Most obnoxious were the provisions that would allow selective dismissal of people on strike. Under the Bill, an employer could provoke a walkout and could dismiss a trade union official for reasons extraneous to the unofficial dispute just because he did not like trade unionists.

This was a shabby, bigoted measure. It looked back, not forward, because the challenge of the future could not be addressed through the prejudices of the past.

Sir Norman Fowler (Sutton

Coldfield, C), former Secretary of State for Employment, said that unions and employers should not wait for this legislation, but start now to dismantle the closed shop. Closed shop arrangements in the public services should be brought to an immediate end.

Mr Ronald Leighton (Newham North East, Lab), chairman of the Select Committee on Employment, said that it was previous legislation the Government had taken away the authority of unions to enforce strike action after a ballot, yet now it wanted them to act as policemen.

The Bill would encourage the targeting of individuals and their victimization. Lech Walesa would have been caught immediately. Some would be singled out vindictively and painfully to have their livelihood taken away. Martyrs would be created.

Mr Alexander Carlile, Liberal Democrat spokesman on employment, said that the Bill contained unnecessary measures - kicking trade unions when they were already down, and a family flawed and would prove a gold mine for lawyers.

It removed any possibility of reasonableness being a test of the actions of trade unionists. It

set out rules that were intended to kick the unions, rather than setting out standards that were intended to support working people.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) described the Bill as "industrial slavery". It would force workers to do things that they would not normally do out of fear of losing their jobs.

Mr David Madel (South West



Mr Blair Mack in the Bill is wrong and unfair.

Bedfordshire, C) said that the slogan used to be "A fair day's pay for a fair day's work". The slogan should now be "A generous day's pay for complete flexibility of working practices".

If the unions were to be asked for that, then something had to be asked of employers and management, too. As it stood, the Bill could provide certain workers with an opportunity for doing unwise things.

Mr Kim Howells (Pontypridd, Lab) said that it made no sense to use scatter-gun legislation to control irresponsible people because it would destroy precisely those elements in the trade union movement who were trying to bring in a sense of discipline.

Mr Tony Lloyd, an Opposition spokesman on employment, said that the legal framework made of the Bill was more and more difficult and the surprise was that unofficial action did not break out far more widely.

Mr Tim Eggar, Minister of State for Employment, said that the Bill put the last nail in the coffin of the tyrannical closed shop.

The Bill was read a second time by 255 votes to 198 - Government majority, 57.

Peers express fears for the future of legal profession

HOUSE OF LORDS

The following report of the fourth day of debate on the committee stage in the Lords of the Courts and Legal Services Bill appeared in later editions yesterday.

The British legal system, with separate professions of barrister and solicitor, had long led the world and should be retained, Lord Rawlinson of Ewell (C) said during the debate.

He moved an amendment that would delete from the Bill the right of solicitors to act as advocates in the High Court. He did so, he said, because the proposal in the Bill would make the legal system less effective, more costly and more ungainly.

It would not be a reform but the abandonment of a traditional system that had proved itself over many years.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said that he thought the proposal to allow solicitors the right of audience was right in the circumstances. It was the first step in an evolutionary change because it helped to overcome difficulties which had arisen over the years.

Lord Simon of Glaisdale (Ind) said that the proposal, populist and attractive at first, would see the end of the Bar, except for a few specialist pockets, within a few years.

"We would be handing over the solicitors' hand and not, to the solicitors' profession."

Lord Mischon, for the Opposition, said that more important than the rights of the Bar and of solicitors were the rights of the public. The reforms being instituted would benefit the public by making the legal service more economical.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor, said that the public image of lawyers, to use a mixed metaphor, was of fat cats seeking to feather their own nests. But what was being sought was justice between man and man. The test of what made a system good was whether it worked and on that test the existing system was good.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said that he supported the Government's courageous proposals because they would be in the interests of the public by making litigation cheaper.

The Earl of Onslow (C) said that he feared the small, high street solicitors would find it difficult to compete.

Lord Gifford (Lab) said that he applauded the basic thrust of the Government's desire to open advocacy to solicitors. That had operated in Australia since 1991 and the Bar there was flourishing.

The amendment was not pressed to a division and therefore fell.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern said that he would consider an amendment proposed by Lord Ackner (Ind) that would enable the judges who were to decide which bodies had the right to grant their members right of audience or the right to conduct litigation to become involved at an earlier stage. He said that he would consider whether the machinery could be improved so that the judges could participate informally, as well as ultimately formally.

Lord Ackner said that under the Bill the role of the judges in the selection of the bodies that were not properly provided for. They were not brought into the process until after the Advisory Committee, the Lord Chancellor and the Director General of Fair Trading.

Labour attack on 'baby story abuse'

The purchase of exclusive rights to interview the parents of Alexander, Cardiff, and to photograph the baby by the News of the World, The Sun and Sky Television after she was found was a glaring example of the abuse of cross-media ownership, Mr Robin Corbett, Opposition spokesman on broadcasting, said yesterday (our Political Staff writes).

Mr Corbett argued that Mr Rupert Murdoch, as the owner of Sky Television, and other owners of satellite channels, should be bound by the same rules as the owners of terrestrial and satellite channels licensed in this country.

During the committee stage of the Broadcasting Bill he proposed an amendment to limit Mr Murdoch's stake in Sky to 20 per cent - after an 18 months' period of grace. The amendment was defeated by 15 votes to 9.

He said that his argument applied equally to other owners of satellites not licensed in the UK, but the "vulgar auction" over the rights of access to the baby was an example of abuse.

The News of the World was reported to have paid £75,000 for the rights, leaving other newspapers which had helped to

find the baby without access to her. The News of the World said on Sunday that photographs of the baby could be seen on Sky and the following day in The Sun.

Mr Murdoch was using his paper flagrantly to push Sky Television.

The Government recognized that there was a problem because it had taken reserve powers to restrict satellites not licensed in this country - if it felt there was the need.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State, Home Office, said that Mr Murdoch was not being singled out. Mr Robert Maxwell, W.H. Smith and other users of the Astra satellite, based in Luxembourg, were in the same position.

There was a difference between Direct Broadcasting Satellite S channels allocated by the Government and non-DBS channels. BSB had been awarded all five DBS channels and was in a monopoly position. It would be wrong to "pull the plug" on Sky when the effort might be to inhibit development of a potentially most worthwhile development, requiring large-scale investment and with no guarantee of a return.

Reform for Scots courts

HOUSE OF LORDS

Proposed reforms to the Scottish legal system would remove some of the rigidities affecting the rights of legal practitioners, Lord Fraser of Carmichael, the Lord Advocate, said in the Lords.

He was moving the second reading of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill, which would allow solicitors rights of audience in the Supreme Court, and others than solicitors to do conveyancing work.

He said that the Bill was intended to widen choice available to those using legal services and to allow those who provided those services to respond to clients' demands "with innovation and flair".

The Scottish Conveyancing and Confirmation Practitioners' Board would be responsible for ensuring satisfactory standards by all non-lawyers.

Clients requiring Supreme Court representation should be able to choose whether to instruct a solicitor with rights of audience or to engage an advocate. Only solicitors reaching the standards which would be set would have these additional rights.

"I see no threat to the independent Scottish Bar. Advocates confident of their standard of service need not be

apprehensive at the prospect of solicitors appearing alongside them before the Supreme Court."

The Bill would also tighten the law governing liquor licensing, requiring applicants to give a positive reason for extensions of permitted hours requested.

Another provision dealt with the need to ensure that every charity was accountable publicly and openly in the conduct of its affairs and that anyone guilty of serious mismanagement would be brought to account.

Other changes involved the period of separation required to establish the irrevocable breakdown of marriage in divorce cases. Present periods were unnecessarily long.

Finally, in Scotland there was no provision to allow evidence to be given through television links from abroad. He was arranging for views on the matter to be obtained because this facility would be useful.

Lord Macdonald of Bragar, Opposition spokesman on Scottish legal affairs, said that it was an insult to Scotland and to its legal system to legislate on such diverse and important subjects in a single Bill. The main legal

reforms would provoke the most controversial reaction in Scotland. What was wrong with the present system was that it was too open and competitive conveyancing market and managed to give people sound advice?

The proposed rights of audience for solicitors would not improve the quality and efficiency of the courts.

The Government should think again on this matter because these rights were neither relevant nor needed in Scotland.

Lord Enslie (Ind), Lord Justice-General of Scotland and Lord President of the Court of Session, in a maiden speech, said that the House might well be slow to permit any change in the Scottish court system which had been universally condemned. It had few friends inside the House and even fewer outside.

There had been no consultations and the scheme was opposed by milk producers, processors and milkmen and women. Even the National Farmers' Union had said that it would do unjustifiable damage to the dairy industry.

The debate would not make it worth delivering the milk, needy families would suffer, roundsmen would lose income and producers would lose sales. The only beneficiary would be the

'Niggardly and crazy' plan to save on milk is attacked

WELFARE

A government proposal to save £20 million on the annual £300 million welfare milk scheme was described as niggardly, ill conceived, damaging and crazy by Conservative MPs during a Commons debate late on Monday.

Mr Paul Flynn, an Opposition spokesman on social security, initiated the debate, proposing that the Welfare Food Amendment Regulations 1990 should be annulled. The motion was rejected by 149 votes to 117 - Government majority, 32.

Mr Flynn said that the proposal, to claim a 3p rebate on each pint of welfare milk, was a malicious measure, which had been universally condemned. It had few friends inside the House and even fewer outside.

There had been no consultations and the scheme was opposed by milk producers, processors and milkmen and women. Even the National Farmers' Union had said that it would do unjustifiable damage to the dairy industry.

The debate would not make it worth delivering the milk, needy families would suffer, roundsmen would lose income and producers would lose sales. The only beneficiary would be the

Government and all it would get would be an insignificant £8 million.

Mr Donald Thompson (Caldar Valley, C), until last year junior agriculture minister, said that it was a niggardly piece of legislation.

The Government had been misled by half-baked consultants. There was a danger of recalling the old "Mrs Thatcher milk snatcher" days. The Government should think about the proposal again.

Mr Robert Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C) said that it was one of the most ill conceived schemes he had seen. The money saved was trivial.

Mrs Elizabeth Peacock (Barley and Spen, C) said that she could not support the regulations, which were damaging and against the interests of all concerned.

Mr Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab) said that there had been no consultations. The health department was just acting on advice from the Prime Minister.

Mr Christopher Hawkins

(High Peak, C) condemned it as an imbecile, crazy scheme.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for Health, said that the proposal would not damage the welfare milk scheme or its 800,000 beneficiaries. Nor would the proposal place any unreasonable burden on milkmen and women. There was no hidden agenda to end the welfare scheme.

The Government was a bulk purchaser of milk and the argument was that without the welfare scheme some extra sales would be lost.

There would be a 10 per cent saving on the £80 million annual cost of the welfare scheme through claiming a 3p discount on each 30p pint of milk delivered. That figure would allow for regional variations in price.

The burden of the discount would be divided between producers, processors and distributors. It would not fall on the beneficiaries.

The scheme would come regularly before the House

SPECTRUM

Our man at the ends of the earth

As communist regimes topple across the world, Mongolia could be a key to Britain's Asian policy. William Greaves talks to our former ambassador



From the far country: the British embassy in Ulan Bator and (inset) our former ambassador, Allan Butler

When he was asked by the Foreign Office how he fancied becoming Our Man in Mongolia, it took Allan Butler a couple of weeks to pluck up the courage to tell his wife. By its earlier name of Outer Mongolia, the independent people's republic sandwiched between the Soviet Union and China, had, after all, long since become the definitive geographical synonym for the back of beyond.

In the event, however, he need not have worried. Pauline Butler was no ordinary diplomat's wife. She had already accompanied her husband to the "Empty Quarter" of Aden and to Dakar, in Senegal, where, as chargé d'affaires and consul, his territory included that other famous "end of the earth", the township of Timbuktu, in Mali. Butler recalls: "My wife instantly took the view that, after Timbuktu, where else was there to go but Mongolia?"

She could, of course, have been forgiven for asking why Britain insisted on being the only western country to maintain an embassy in Ulan Bator, the coldest capital city on Earth, and in a country the size of western Europe but with a population of only two million. But, whether by luck or good judgement — almost certainly the latter — the answer to her question is today eloquently clear.

As the nations of eastern Europe have one by one been overturning their Stalinist dictators, the communist countries in Asia such as North Korea, North Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia have basked in the belief that their very different histories make them unlikely to face a popular demand for democracy. But now Mongolia which, since the days of Genghis Khan, has never known anything approaching a democratic, capitalist or pluralist regime, is showing signs of being blown towards the west. And if Mongolia moves, who can say what the domino effect might be throughout the rest of east Asia?

That something is happening is beyond doubt. "Mongolia has

suddenly become world news," says Butler, who was British ambassador in Ulan Bator from September, 1984, to February, 1987, and who probably has more first-hand knowledge of Mongolia than anyone else in Britain. "There have been more Mongolian news items in the papers this past month or two than in the whole of the previous 25 years."

"And because of our presence there, the Mongolians like us — even if we did stand for something which officially they didn't agree with. Now that 'something' has suddenly become flavour of the month."

Britain sent its first ambassador to Ulan Bator in 1963, soon after the fiercely independent People's Republic of Mongolia joined the United Nations. Since then, our four-family embassy staff has formed what amounts almost to the country's entire western community. It has been there because Whitehall had the presence to recognize Mongolia's unique position as an observation post between the Soviet Union and China.

The embassy is unique in other ways, too. For example, it has no British residents to look after. During Butler's term of office, he remembers offering what succour he could to a party of Austrians, a group of Danes and an American woman who had been robbed of her passport.

During late January, it is immaterial whether the temperature outside the embassy is measured in centigrade or fahrenheit because minus 40 is the same on both scales. July is the only month when the mean temperature over 24 hours rises above freezing point.

What is the lifestyle of the tiny band of diplomats charged with keeping the Union Flag fluttering over this far-flung outpost? "The two essential difficulties are climate and isolation," says Butler, who, after a tour of duty at Strasbourg, has now retired from the diplomatic service to become director of Sainsbury Case, a subsidiary of Saatchi & Saatchi. "Ulan Bator is 36 hours from

Peking on the trans-Mongolian railway and four and a half days from Moscow."

"Apart from the few things we brought in whenever we passed through Peking, all the embassy supplies came by rail from Peter Justesen, the freepost supplier in Copenhagen. And the trick was to time their shipment between the end of April and mid-August because, before or after that, the wine bottles would freeze solid in transit and burst open. And with a difference of 110° F between the temperature inside and outside the embassy, stepping outdoors was like being kicked under the heart by a horse."

But the most intense pressure of a posting to Mongolia is undoubtedly social claustrophobia. The British contingent is made up of an ambassador (Butler's great friend, David Sprague), a second secretary, two support staff and their wives — all sleeping, eating and playing in the one two-story building.

As one, or sometimes two, British Council teachers, and the European resident population of Ulan Bator totals 10 at most.

"The wives are obliged to work at the embassy, not only because it saves the expense of bringing in extra staff to do the clerical and secretarial duties but, more importantly, because they would go bonkers if they didn't," Butler explains. Ulan Bator has no direct dialling, no telex and a haphazard fax system.

"It brings you back to Victorian methods of self-entertainment. We converted a grim-looking cellar into a bar and darts room and we used to organize a sort of decathlon of Scrabble, darts, bridge and other events to pass the time. It must have been infinitely worse before the arrival of video films, which we would bring in whenever we returned from leave."

"It was absolutely essential that husbands got on with wives, husbands got on with other husbands and wives got on with other

wives. I won't say that there were no tensions, but it was remarkable how well we survived them. There are no pubs to escape to and if you really wanted to blow your top and get off on your own for a while it took at least half an hour to put on the necessary clothing — by which time you had probably thought better of it anyway."

Despite the climate, the country has a stark beauty. The Pamir and Altai mountain ranges tower to 15,000ft and in June the plains are so densely carpeted with edelweiss that it is often necessary to drive over fields of them to get from one place to another.

This absence of roads, coupled with the intense cold, adds another unwelcome ingredient of daily life — physical danger. It does not stem from the usual western sources like traffic, which is non-existent, and mugging, which is almost unknown. And the embassy, sited within a mile of the Soviet army headquarters, is one of the best protected on the British diplomatic circuit. But if you are not driving on sheet ice then you are at risk of being bogged down in thawing snow. "Ambassadors to Mongolia are almost certainly the only members of the British diplomatic service who learn exactly how long they have got to change a Land-Rover tyre before they freeze to death," says Butler, with a shiver.

It is just this sort of sacrifice from successive teams of temporary residents over 27 years which has made Britain the number one potential beneficiary of Mongolia's gradual rejection of the communist strait-jacket. Among other natural assets, the Mongolians have one of the largest copper mines in the world, great deposits of fluorospar and coal, a wealth of other minerals and, astonishingly, a national debt of nil.

Mongolia is showing a desire — symbolically at least — to come in from the cold. If the United Kingdom becomes, as seems likely, the broker of that transition, it will almost certainly be due to the most accomplished team of darts players in the foreign service.

Never a crossword from Sir Max Beerbohm

In 1940, Sir Max Beerbohm wrote to *The Times*: "No doubt you, like most people, have sometimes thought of some utterly awful thing that you could do if you chose to, some disastrous and devastating thing the very thought of which has brought cold sweat to your brow? And you may have at some time thought: 'Suppose I released into the columns of *The Times*, one of these fine days, a crossword puzzle with clues signifying nothing whatsoever, and may have hideously pictured to yourself the effect on all educated parts of Great Britain?' "You may incidentally have seen yourself going into your club shortly before luncheon

time and observing in the armchairs men with blank set, fixed, pale, just-not-despairing faces, poring over the current issue? — one of them perhaps rising unsteadily and lumbering out of the library and asking the librarian, 'Have we a Wordsworth concordance?', or some question of that sort...

"And you may further have wondered just how the apology in the next day's issue should be worded — just what excuse should be offered, before the shutters in Printing House Square were briskly and slammin'ly put up for ever? Perhaps I oughtn't to remind you of this nightmare of yours. Forgive me.

"PS: The nightmare wouldn't be so loathsome complete unless a few of the clues were quite genuine — and very simple, so as to put the solvers in good heart, and make them confident of success, and keep their shoulders to the wheel. I have provided six such clues, with my usual forthrightness."

Out of consideration for our solvers, *The Times* printed Beerbohm's letter alongside his crossword. Some of his clues read more like crossword clues than the real thing, and his quotations would not have disgraced their putative authors. Given this protective coloration, his six clues are not all that easy to spot. (Answers at end of the clues.)

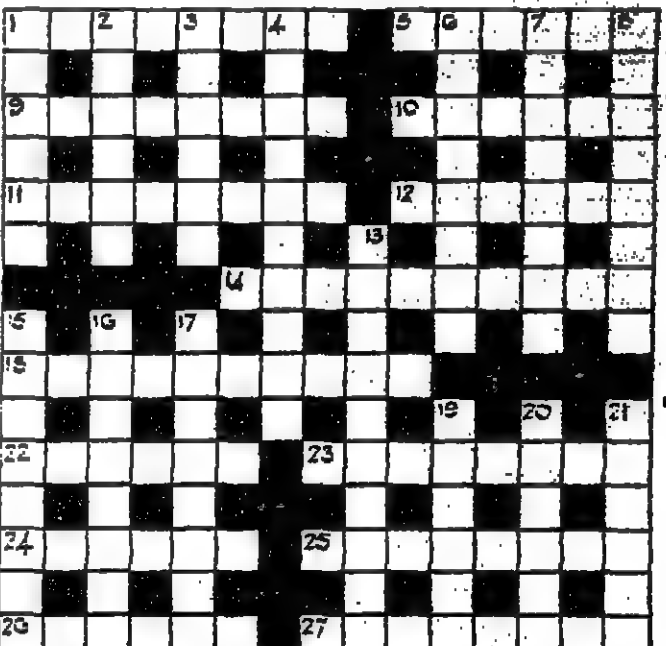
ACROSS

- 1 A Victorian statesman lurking in a side lair (8).
- 5 Milky way unseen by stargazers (6).
- 9 An insect with a girl on each side (8).
- 10 Puggles' wear (6).
- 11 Four toes are broken (8).
- 12 The cockney's goddess appears to have been a slimmer (6).
- 14 There's a little company in the meadows next month (10).
- 18 "But what if memory itself — a had betrayed" (Matthew Arnold) (two words) (5,5).
- 22 A nudist's aunt? (6).
- 23 "That day he the Nervii" (Shakespeare) (8).

DOWN

- 24 Acknowledgement of debt in a vessel (6).
- 25 Neither animal nor mineral, and only three-fourths vegetable (8).
- 26 Not what the wicket-keeper tries for in Essex (6).
- 27 The PRA is utterly confounded (6).
- 1 Drum (Newbolt) (6).
- 2 The top of the morning, perhaps (6).
- 3 A Marx beverage (6).
- 4 Ho! Let's go in (anag) (10).
- 6 Wordsworth's fan mail? (8).
- 7 And yet sugar can be refined (8).

- 8 They are up and doing, no doubt, in "the sweet o' the year" (8).
- 13 Little Tommy thought it meant a red-faced blacksmith (10).
- 15 Voltaire's *prêtre enragé* (8).
- 16 Such buns are eaten on a good day (two words) (3,5).
- 17 Caliban's sea-change (8).
- 19 Pollarded hawken (6).
- 20 I'm in the old Roman bath (6).
- 21 "Our — clues that do but darken counsel" (Tennyson) (6).



Printmaking:

The creative process

Simon Palmer created 'The small Farmer and the large Farm Worker' using 22 separate silk screens, one for each colour. When he had finished each of the 350 in the series he signed and numbered each one and then destroyed the screens to ensure the limitation of the edition.

Simon Palmer's new works are just one element of the new CCA Gallery portfolio which features 30 works of art by contemporary artists and sculptors. To acquire your free copy of our New Year Collection portfolio, please complete the coupon below or phone 01-491 2523 (24 hours).

To: CCA Galleries, 8 Dover Street, London W1X 3PJ. Please send me a copy of your new portfolio.

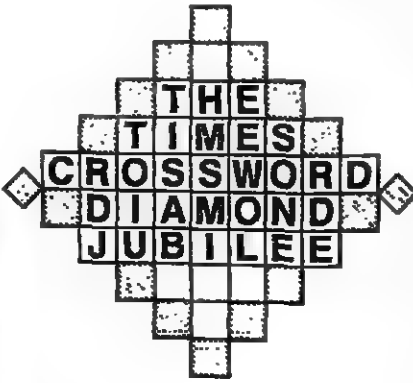
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All clued up for Day Three



Today we print the third set of clues to our prize puzzle, together with the relevant part of the grid. The answers fit within, but do not fill, the unshaded section shown on the right

ACROSS

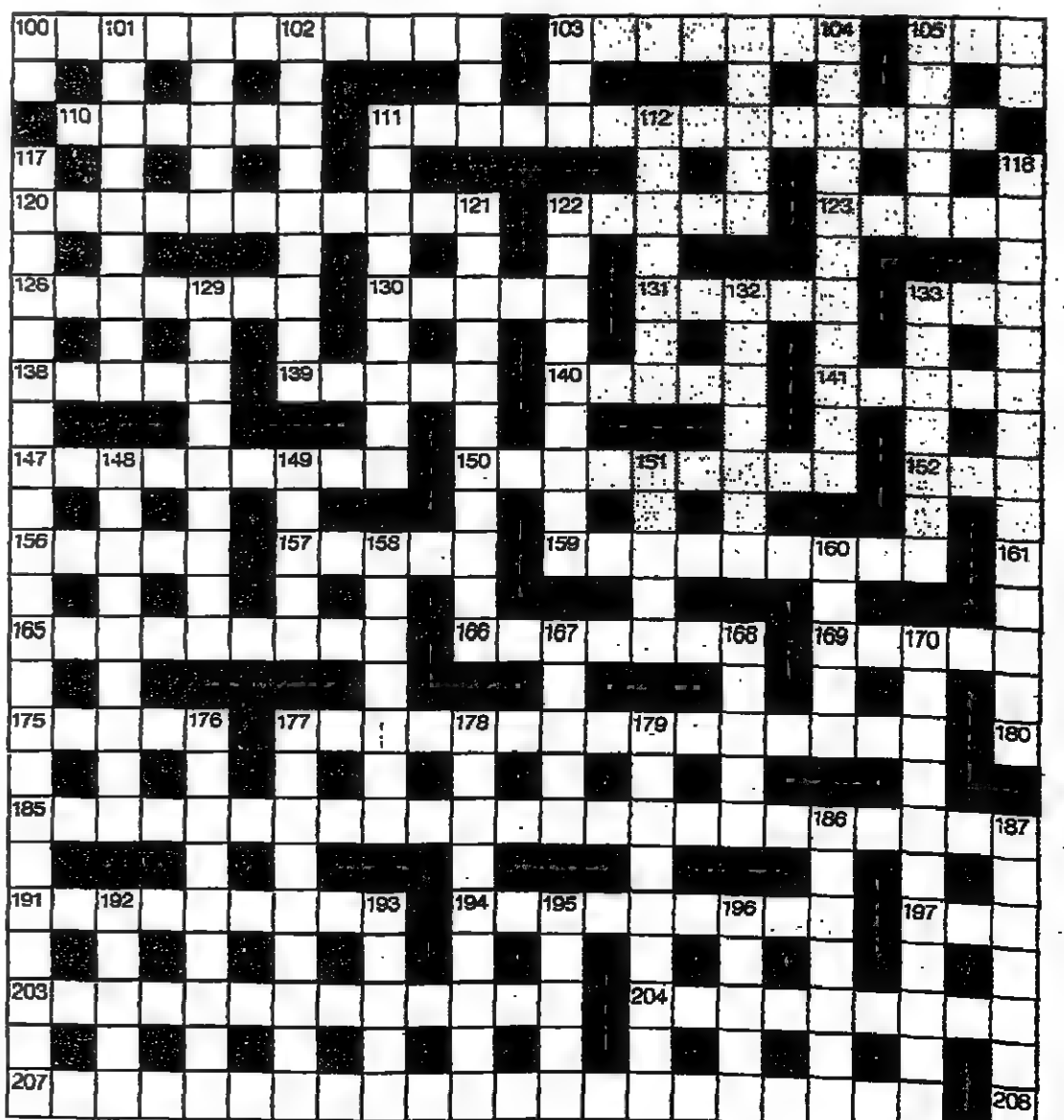
- 110 Swearing in part of Russia (6)
- 128 Mount sentries in military HQ (5,6)
- 128 Promise union to endure a sort of Communist bothead (7)
- 130 Pick a size of type (5)
- 138 Left before midsummer? Gosh! (5)
- 139 Plan to get man on US board (5)
- 147 Left a ring to only daughter (9)
- 156 Contents of home, say, that you'll find in city (5)
- 157 Like Eliza in this fur (5)
- 165 Reassemble never, once scattered (9)
- 166 Like eternity ring, in more ways than one? (7)

- 169 Watering hole used by natives (5)
- 175 Guard's intended to remove source of ill-feeling (5)
- 177 Character in *Bleak House*, thwarting one of the defence (8,7)
- 191 Lucky fellow pronounced strange antics athletic (9)
- 194 Dog with fetching ways (9)
- 203 Silver surplus one country's amassing (13)
- 204 Engineer effective in going through accounts again (9)
- 207 Characters at start of book help in establishing context (7,2,12)

DOWN

- 101 Plant batches of really exotic trees initially inside this? (9)
- 102 Finally improved recognition of wit in Russian (9)
- 111 A ruler with us, originally? (9)
- 117 Inside story, as told by Oscar (3,6,2,7,4)
- 121 National hero dismantling segregation (5,6)
- 129 Pulled too far back on the rocks (9)
- 148 Chairman's confused, hence total disorder (9)

- 149 Keener parent who overpraised children (5)
- 158 Artist to draw merchant from his city (7)
- 160 Organized workers having the edge in plant (5)
- 167 Split money (5)
- 168 Fish was perceptibly stale (5)
- 170 Thought character of festivities should be changed (11)
- 176 Opening doctor spotted in cancellation (9)
- 177 Endowed altars church retains



THE CHALLENGE

● The Times Diamond Jubilee Crossword, which has 2,025 squares, has been broken into five sections which are appearing throughout this week.

● On Saturday we will reprint the whole grid, together with the remaining multi-section clues. Entries should be filled in on the grid which is reprinted on Saturday.

● There are 12 prizes on offer for the successful solvers: the winner will receive £1,000 and a trip to India for two, courtesy of Hogg Robinson and Cox & Kings. The second prize is a numbered set of the 32-volume *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in the limited edition Platinum binding, and a matching copy of the *Britannica World Data Annual*. Each of the 10 runners-up will receive *The Times Atlas of the World*.

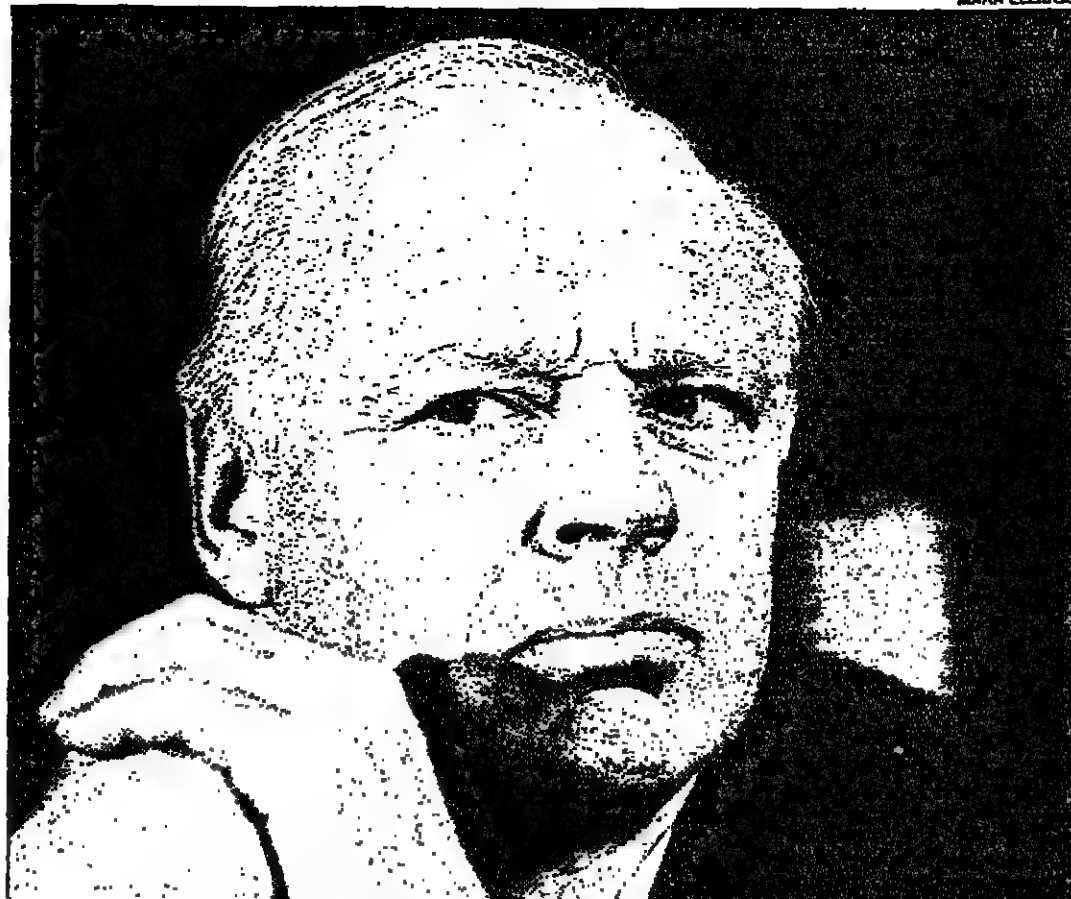
● Full details of how to enter your solution, where to send your entry and the closing date will be published on Saturday.

THE ARTS

Covent Garden music director Bernard Haitink talks to Richard Morrison about the past two seasons and his present projects

Embattled but not embittered

MARK ELLIDGE



Haitink: "I never shout, I am not a dictator", no top conductor commands more affection from musicians

I'm not sure I want to go back as a guest. They have gone in a totally different direction; I don't want to say better or worse."

It says much for his industry that, while he was running one of the finest European orchestras, Bernard Haitink, KBE, was also a central figure in British musical life: principal conductor of the London Philharmonic for more than a decade; music director at Glyndebourne until his Royal Opera appointment.

What of the future? "Listen, I'm 60 now. For 30 years I have been running orchestras and opera houses. As far as Covent Garden is concerned, I am personally not thinking beyond its closure, apart from the fact that I want to do several projects that would suit my philosophy. For example, we are planning Ring cycles at the Albert Hall, in 1993 and 1994, using Götz Friedrich's production. It will be semi-staged only, but Friedrich sees possibilities in that. And with 5,000 people each night, we won't have to charge those high ticket prices."

Haitink worries about Covent Garden's pricing policy ("It is against my nature to charge people anything to listen to music"); about the "so-called stars we sometimes have to cope with"; about opera producers who "experiment for experiment's sake, simply following fashion" ("sometimes you talk over their plans with them, then they change them without telling you"); and about the perception by Royal Ballet members that they are poor cousins of the Royal Opera.

One of Haitink's first decisions at Covent Garden was to conduct ballet: something no music director usually bothers with. "It was my conscience. I wanted to heal

the rift between ballet and opera companies, and to show the orchestra that I was interested in their well-being. Then I started to enjoy it."

He says he has no interest now in accepting another principal-conductor position, though he confirms he was in contention with Abbado until the last moment for the Karajan succession in Berlin. "That orchestra is special;

Karajan must have worked very hard. When the players approached me, I told them that I could not refuse the post if offered."

The final orchestral vote went to Abbado. "I felt first disappointment that I had not got it, after all the talks we had had. Then I felt admiration that the Berliners had made an excellent musical choice, that they had not considered

candidates who might be called a 'business choice'. Then I felt immense relief, that I did not have the responsibility of running a great orchestra again. There are so many things left to do: digging into certain works I really love. I need more time, less pressure."

Prince Igor will have eight performances at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, starting tomorrow

Help them to help themselves

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

If the test of a successful television case-history documentary is that it can be capable of arousing real rage, then David Jessel's *A Criminal Way to Treat an Illness*, in his *Taking Liberties* series on BBC 2 last night, was a rare winner.

Jessel took up the case of three people who found themselves the victims of the very institutions they thought would protect them. All three are or were mentally ill. All three belong or belonged to the new underclass of 90,000 long-stay patients who have been decanted into the community since 1954, to form a vagrant group too large for the police to "move along". Only 6,000 of them have been accommodated by local authorities.

It appears from a survey by the Westminster Association for Mental Health (June-December 1988), that one in four of those sleeping rough on London streets is mentally ill; whole areas of the city are, in effect, becoming open-air mental institutions. Jessel ventured into this confused jungle of the destitute and demented, to follow the stories of a paranoid schizophrenic who killed his father, a suicidal wife-slapper, and a tramp who wanders from hospital to prison and back.

Politically, the argument looks simple enough: the left want such people out of Victorian institutions, and the right want them standing on their own feet. But in the middle are the patients themselves, marginalised and lost in the back streets with an illness that was once a shame and which we have now reclassified as a crime.

For such people, the ultimate civil liberty is suicide. An article in *The British Journal of Psychiatry* (No 156, 1990) suggests that between 1972 and 1987 there was an increase of 80 per cent in suicides in prison. According to last night's programme, eight prisoners in Brixton Prison and one prisoner from there sent for trial committed suicide during 1989. (During the same period, three prison officers apparently killed themselves, with a fourth added this month.)

It is surely time, as Jessel remarked, to realize that in abandoning the concept of inmate asylums because, rightly, "inmate" is now seen as an appalling concept, we have also abandoned the notion of an asylum. Thirty thousand beds for the mentally ill have disappeared in the past 10 years; it may already be too late to reinstate them.

Over on Channel 4, *Ordinary People* was the start of a six-part series which promises to explore why women have become feminists in such areas as the law, education and the arts. The current-raiser was, however, nothing more than a dictionary of anti-female quotations, from the 12th-century "To subvert a woman is to embrace a sack of manure", all the way through 800 years to Germaine Greer noting that women today still have very little idea of how much men hate them.

Some of these random quotes were alarming enough, but it would have been equally possible and perhaps more useful to compile a 30-minute anthology of all the daft things women have ever said about men. On to the next episode please, especially as it comes from an independent production company with the wonderfully apt, and on this occasion accurate, name of *Try Again*.

French piano music of the present century evidently has a special appeal for Iwan Llewellyn-Jones, from north Wales. He devoted his programme entirely to the French repertoire and made much of it.

His recital was presented by the Classical Music Club, an association of music lovers who themselves organize and promote such opportunities to help bring forward young artists. Their enthusiasm clearly meant much to the pianist, after he eased his way a shade nervously into the programme with a Theme and Variations by Fauré that sounded unduly stilted.

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After the challenge of Messiaen, Poulenc's *Napoli* suite inevitably, perhaps, sounded vapid and char-

ming. Shostakovich or even Elgar and Vaughan Williams, will know that the image of a phlegmatic, moderate Dutchman is a smoke-screen. His performances dig deep into the neuroses of late Romantic music; intensity and integrity burn like twin lasers through everything he does.

He believes that conducting is something you do with your hands. If a conductor needs to shout in rehearsal, or enter into long explanations, he has failed. "I never shout; I am not a dictator." He likes to quote the verdict of a player when Haitink, barely turned 30, was chosen to succeed Van Beinum as principal conductor of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra: "The boy knows nothing, but he is a conductor."

Once, in Amsterdam, he had to conduct a concert for a convention of American travel agents, who talked persistently through the first item. Haitink stopped the music and walked out. More significantly, the Concertgebouw Orchestra followed him off with-out hesitation. No charisma?

For more than 25 years the names of Haitink and the Concertgebouw were inseparable: it seemed the perfect marriage of orchestra and conductor. In the 1980s things went wrong: funding wrangles with the Amsterdam city council; threats of personnel cuts. "You cannot cut off an arm or a leg," Haitink angrily told the authorities. He left the "principal conductor for life" position, with a series of emotionally-charged performances of Mahler's Eighth Symphony, in 1988.

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Andrew Gibbon Williams on a Glasgow exhibition of fine art works drawn from the collections of banks and international businesses

Raise the company's colours

In America, companies have been doing it for years. But the big names in British business have only recently become aware of the benefits of collecting art. Whereas a one-off musical or theatrical sponsorship is soon forgotten, continuous art acquisition ensures that a company's reputation for philanthropy will stay hot.

It is not only the cultural prestige. Employees get a jollier working environment, artists and dealers are happy and, with a little informed advice, a modest outlay buys a collection which appreciates in value faster than either property or financial investments. Nowwithstanding its Bond Street headquarters, the Fine Arts Society has strong Scottish connections. Through its galleries in Edinburgh and Glasgow it has done more for long-neglected Scottish Victorian painters and the Scottish Colourists than even the National Gallery of Scotland. Several Scottish companies which have collected in this area are in the vanguard of the corporate art boom. As its first City of Culture offering, the FAS has mounted an exhibition of 60 works owned by them: household names such as the Clydesdale Bank and Bank of Scotland, powerful conglomerates such as United Distillers.

The show's ostensible *raison d'être* is historical - to give an



Landseer's "Monarch of the Glen": great 19th-century Scottish icon

overview of Scottish art from 1800. But its more important value is the insight it gives into the collecting policies of the various companies.

Very few of the British ones have reached the professional stage of corporate collecting (in America such companies as AT and T, Amoco and McDonalds employ curators and even build their own galleries) but Robert Fleming, the City bank, is pretty near it. Although it is London-based, its Scottish founder, perhaps, its FAS client-status, earns it wall space in Glasgow.

Like the majority, this collection began with the enthusiasm of a chairman. But Fleming decided to specialize in Scottish art at just the right time. The walls of its hi-tech City headquarters are lined with Scottish Colourists, which were bought for hundreds of pounds, and are now worth hundreds of thousands.

Fleming has recently bought works by James Pryde and William McTaggart for prices in excess of £100,000. At the FAS it is well represented with an impressive group of Glasgow Boys such as E.A. Walton and George Henry and Colourists such as J.D. Fergusson and Peploe.

Arthur Andersen is the only British company to employ a firm of art consultants full-time. It circulates works throughout its branches in the UK and makes a point of patronizing local galleries and local artists. It is difficult to imagine better PR. Arthur Andersen is more adventurous than most and takes a chance with the untied and avant-garde. A picture of the famous Glasgow market, "The Barrow" by the young Scottish artist, Peter Howson, who specializes in this updated form of

genre painting, is indicative of this approach. The taste of the Clydesdale Bank's Sir David Fairbairn tended toward the historically respectable - museum legitimized artists - so the Clydesdale Collection comprises Sir D.Y. Cameron, Sir John Lavery and Alexander Nasmyth. It is, typically, of a consistent quality. By far the great majority of corporate collections have "just grown": portraits of past chairmen, landscapes bought for the boardroom, prints to line corridors. They tend to be unfocused combinations of banal pictures by established names and rubbish by unknowns. However, the occasional masterpiece can be found.

United Distillers, for example, through its absorption of Dewar's and Johnny Walker, inherited two great 19th-century Scottish icons: Landseer's still rather awesome "Monarch of the Glen" (familiar in miniature to generations of whisky-tippers) and Sir Henry Raeburn's full-length portrait of the Highland Chief, "The Mac-Nab", described by the foremost Regency portraitist, Lawrence as "the best representation of a human being" he ever saw. With a value of approximately £3 million, a picture such as Landseer's "Monarch" is a capital asset.

Irreverent, outrageous pranks

THEATRE
Benedict NightingaleDon Giovanni
Greenwich

Terence Hillier's Leporello sings "All he ever does is poke" from inside his green hooded sweat-shirt. "Nah, nah, nah, I can't take this anymore." And down from a balcony wheezes Mark McGann's Giovanni in his spotted underpants, quickly clothing his bare parts in black pullover, trousers and ski-mask. It looks as if Mozart's greatest opera is about to become a celebration of SAS tactics. *Who Dares Wins*.

Tony Britten and Nick Broadhurst's "new version" is not that outrageous, but at times it comes close. De Fante's libretto did not include anything obviously translatable as "slag" or "bimbo". Nor did Mozart conceive of an Elvira such as Sarah Payne's, venomously warning the Don that she will "have your balls on toast".

Broadhurst's production gives us that and more. There is vodka and orange for Zerlina, the motorway snot, to swallow, a calculator for Leporello to set up Giovanni's seductions, and even a cricket bat for Simon Butterfield's Hurrax Henry Octavio to take his oath on. The hell which engulfs McGann - a sauntering Chelsea rogue and probable habitué of Tramp - resembles a steamy green sauna.

You can of course huff and puff at all this and call it a vulgar travesty; but its creators might well deflect your ire by agreeing with you. Their intention seems partly to amuse those who do not know Mozart by showing that he

could write a far better, more humanistic West End musical than any contemporary; and partly to amuse those who do know him by playing inventive pranks with an opera that can, after all, survive a little irreverence.

So there is little point complaining that the evening lacks tenderness, rage, or any other serious emotion. That goes without saying. The objections are, first, that the film gets too frantic and silly, and second, that Jan Hartley Morris makes a sudden attempt towards

the end to play Anna's grief for real. As she has just been bopping in Giovanni's pad, dressed in gaudy patchwork, that is absurd. Nevertheless, Morris's singing remains the strongest around. Most of her colleagues begin well enough, but leave one feeling that, while they would eliminate your average musical comedy, they are not ready for anything more consistently challenging. And that is, one fears, especially true of McGann, too breathy at the start, too hoarse by the end.



Slut and rogue: Zerlina (Kelly Hunter), Don Giovanni (Mark McGann)

Best when challenged

RECITAL
Noël GoodwinIwan Llewellyn-Jones
Wigmore Hall

French piano music of the present century evidently has a special appeal for Iwan Llewellyn-Jones, from north Wales. He devoted his programme entirely to the French repertoire and made much of it.

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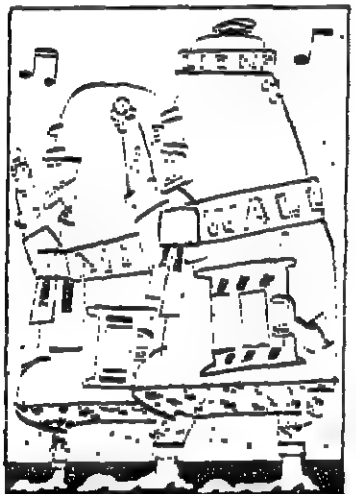
NIGEL WILLIAMSON

What was a Liberal Democrat MP doing at yesterday's Parliamentary Labour Party meeting, applauding speeches by two ambulance workers and Neil Kinnock? "I wanted to show my support for the ambulance staff," said Simon Hughes, member for Bermondsey. "I wasn't sure what sort of reception I would get, but Labour members made me very welcome." Hughes says he has received two high-level approaches to stand at the next election as the Labour candidate in Bermondsey, where the local party is suspended because of a council contretemps. Labour officially denies the story, but Hughes believes the approaches were genuine. "They have been trying to give me a Labour Party membership card for years, but I have resisted — so far," he told me.

Perusing last week's *Hansard*, I noticed that Nicholas Soames voted against Teresa Gorman's bill to repeal the Rent Acts — the only Tory MP to do so. I suggested to him that he must have strong views on the subject. "Not particularly," he told me. "I'm simply unable to support anything Mrs Gorman proposes."

Following his call to the Prime Minister to return to the National Trust the silverware in the Downing Street state dining room borrowed from Belton House, Dennis Skinner is now asking Mrs Thatcher to give up the Gainsborough portrait of David Garrick which she has had on loan from the National Portrait Gallery since 1984. The Prime Minister has replied that the Downing Street state rooms allow such pictures to be "kept safely and displayed to advantage" for the benefit of official visitors. What about the rest of the nation, says Skinner, who tells me he has now written to "Maggie Thatcher" asking what else she has hoarded away behind that famous front door.

BARRY FANTONI



"Sit down, sit down, with hope in your heart"

When David Waddington made his statement on the Taylor report this week, I wonder if he realized what vested interests he faced on the Opposition benches. There is the first division elite, such as Joe Ashton, proud owner of two shares in Sheffield Wednesday ("no dividend paid since 1935") and Tom Pendry, whose researcher's wages are paid by Tottenham Hotspur. But there are the minnows, too — Alan Meale, a shareholder in Mansfield Town (currently 64th out of the 92 clubs in the Football League), David Clark, a shareholder in Carlisle United (67th) and Roland Boyes, shareholder and director of Harlepool United (91st). North of the border there is Harry Ewing, shareholder in the equally undistinguished Cowdenbeath (37th out of the 38 clubs in the Scottish League). Small wonder Labour is against all-seater stadiums — Meale's Mansfield club, for example, estimates that it would cost more than £1 million and reduce crowd capacity to a mere 4,000.

At Woolwich Town Hall tonight, two days after publication of the Taylor report, Labour councillors look set to block the construction of one of Britain's first all-seater soccer stadiums by refusing Charlton Athletic the planning permission it needs to return to The Valley from Selhurst Park, which it shares with Crystal Palace. If they do, Charlton supporters — many of them Labour members, and despite threats of expulsion — will announce their intention to stand against Labour councillors all over the borough in the May elections on a "Voice of the Valley" ticket. They feel betrayed by Labour politicians on Greenwich borough council who said they wanted to see the club back only to turn against the idea once it neared fruition.

A year ago when Charlton re-purchased The Valley and announced its intention to return, thousands of supporters, including your diarist, turned up on a Sunday morning to help clear what had become a derelict site. If planning permission is refused tonight and the prospect of football being played again at The Valley recedes, probably forever, I shall be among those shedding a tear. And although this column is strictly about party politics, if Voice of the Valley candidates want my assistance, they know where to get in touch.

What is happening to Islington? That scourge of the catering mentality, Jonathan Meades, regrets the absence of a serious restaurant, but if you don't mind eating flippantly you now have a choice of every other retail outlet between the Angel and Highbury Corner.

From Benji's of Earl's Court ("World Famous Breakfasts") to the Pizza Express, from the Mexican cantinas, Thai road-houses and Greek kebab factories to the Angel Inn (a bangover from an aboriginal café society which is offering peanut butter and banana rolls as a sop to the exotic), Islington provides every variety of succour for the beaten-up boozercat and big rubber-soled boot brigade.

I don't know if I'm ready for it at all. On Saturday I was tempted by "thin spicy sausages of beef and mutton served with couscous

It all sounded very noble when Douglas Hurd, referring to Hong Kong, said last month that he was anxious that "the last main chapter in the story of this country's empire... should not end in a shabby way". His own actions and inaction are preventing this ambition from being realized.

Omelco (the Office of Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils) in Hong Kong has pressed the Government to ensure that direct elections to the Legislative Council be established by the time of the handover to China in 1997.

Omelco was disappointed that the first elections will not be held until 1991, with only 10 of the 60 Legislative Council members directly elected.

Immediately following the Tiananmen Square massacre last June, I pressed the Government to buttress confidence in Hong Kong by immediately increasing the number of elected members. Sir Geoffrey Howe, in his last days as Foreign Secretary, responded on July 13 by asserting that "the pace of development should reflect the wishes of the whole community", and referred to the "unanimous view" of

The British Army has been bracing itself to fight a third world war ever since the second one ended. The threat from a belligerent Soviet Union shaped its understanding of defence and focused attention on a set of clear objectives. The sudden diminution of that threat has thus blurred the Army's vision of its future.

The sensation is a relatively novel one. Throughout the 18th and first part of the 19th centuries British soldiers and sailors prepared to fight the French, before turning to meet the Russians, then the Germans. In between, when European politics seemed benign, there was always the Empire to fashion and maintain or that blistering route to India to protect. The Army has rarely lacked a sense of mission.

Officially it is not without one now. If the Vienna talks on Conventional Forces in Europe carry on as planned they should produce a treaty later this year which will cut Nato forces on the continent. The effect on the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) remains unclear, but a reduction of between 10 and 15 per cent is the maximum expected.

The impact of this on the 1st British Corps would be manageable. In one sense it would enable some tidying up, by removing a number of units which have been badly located since the war — because that is where they happened to be when peace broke out. The loss of one of its eight armoured brigades would probably be the worst operational impact on the Corps.

The other seven would carry on training for the time being, preparing to face an invasion from the east.

But this slow *diminuendo* seems unlikely. At best its pace is likely to be quickened as pressure increases for East-West disengagement. Even if the run-down in forces continues to be managed within the CFE framework the dismantling of most, if not all, of BAOR well before the

end of this decade now looks probable. The Army, in other words, will soon start shrinking. How far it should shrink is a matter for debate. Before the last war, that is before we had an army on the continent, it was 220,000 strong: 122,000 were based in Britain, up to 55,000 in India (the same number as in BAOR), and 43,000 were scattered around the *pax britannica*. Thirty years ago Sir Basil Liddell Hart, surveying the dissolution of the Empire, thought that a total of 140,000 should suffice. On that view, the Army is already over-strength at 165,000 — though this includes 16,000 in training and 8,000 Gurkhas.

Its size should depend on the jobs it has to do. But this is where the difficulty lies. It is not that the Ministry of Defence needs bright ideas, of which there is an *embarras de richesses*. It is rather that few of these bear close analysis, while those which do are strikingly peripheral.

Withdrawal from West Germany and Berlin would leave the 11,000 in Northern Ireland as the biggest number outside mainland Britain. Small contingents remain in Gibraltar, Cyprus, Belize, the Falkland Islands, Brunei (a battalion of Gurkhas) and, until 1997, in Hong Kong. There are also training teams and temporary detachments on loan or secondment in parts of the Third World, the number of which could increase. So could United Nations peace-keeping duties. The sudden availability of first-class troops (not just from Britain) might enable more use to be made of the Blue Berets.

Anti-terrorist operations (outside Ireland) suggest yet another job opportunity, to which the war against the drugs trade might be added. But this is unlikely to be manpower-intensive, probably involving primarily the Special Air Service.

It is tempting to talk of expanding the SAS, which now comprises one small regiment

Gerald Kaufman lists further failures to stand up to Peking

Hurd's damaging inaction

Omelco as "a very significant step towards the establishment of a consensus in Hong Kong".

The Omelco consensus calls for 20 elected members next year and 30 in 1995. Despite believing such steps too modest, I, as apparently did Sir Geoffrey, support the Omelco view. The problem is that Sir Geoffrey did nothing. John Major in his three months at the Foreign Office did nothing, and Douglas Hurd has done nothing.

So the Government has now left the field to the Chinese, who, announcing that there must be only 18 elected members by 1997, have made threatening noises against any higher figure implemented while Hong Kong remains a British colony. As Dame Lydia Dunn and Allen Lee, both legislative councillors, made clear to me last week, the people of Hong Kong are ready to take the risk. Mr Hurd,

meanwhile, calls for "convergence" with China. Convergence here means caving in to Peking and breaking commitments to Hong Kong.

Less obviously discreditable, because more opaque, is the Government's present attitude towards a Bill of Rights for Hong Kong. Last July Sir Geoffrey forthrightly told the Commons that a Bill of Rights "will form part of the existing law and will continue after the transfer of sovereignty". Here again there has been a clash with Peking on the question of entrenchment after the handover.

As a result, Hong Kong representatives have thrown out the draft Bill. Mr Hurd has been cowed by the Chinese reaction, or attaches so little importance to the Bill of Rights, that in his statement to Parliament after returning from Hong Kong he did not even mention it. When I

raised the matter he had to resort to a hasty briefing from Sir Geoffrey on the Government front bench before dismissively referring to the Bill as an "idea" put forward by Sir Geoffrey.

Where the Government has decided to act is by proposing to provide British passports to 30,000 Hong Kong heads of household on a points system which Mr Hurd finds impossible to explain, but which is certainly based on affluence, influence and status, and is quite likely unworkable. Its aim, Mr Hurd said, is to bolster confidence by anchoring this selected élite to Hong Kong.

What remains unclear is how the 96 per cent of the Hong Kong population who will not qualify will gain confidence by the knowledge that 4 per cent of their wealthier and more influential compatriots are to be given this privilege. In any case,

the whole scheme seems increasingly irrelevant in view of China's recent announcement that after 1997 senior officials in Hong Kong will not have the right to live abroad and that Hong Kong residents with British passports will not be allowed to seek British consular protection while in the territory. The Government's scheme is accordingly transformed from a purported anchor into an incentive to emigrate before 1997.

The other government action, easily the least worthy and aimed at pacifying certain sections of opinion in Hong Kong, has also come unstuck. When Vietnamese boat people — mainly women and children, with a handful of men — were forcibly sent back in November, it was said that the objective was to deter others in Vietnam from setting forth when the "sailing season" begins next month.

The international outcry led to suspension of further deportations until an international conference could discuss the issue. When that conference was held in Geneva last week the Government's policy was thrown into disarray by a failure to agree. No doubt Mr Hurd was able to hear with equanimity what his officials called the "hypocrisy" of the United States in opposing the deportations.

Far more awkward was the demand by Vietnam for a moratorium on deportations until October, since deportations are not possible if Vietnam will not receive those who are sent back. Far more revealing was Britain's readiness to accept a six-month moratorium; those six months, of course, take us to July, and make nonsense of the claim that deportations were essential before March *pour décourager les autres*.

The cynicism and slothfulness of a procession of foreign secretaries has worsened Hong Kong's predicament rather than provided reassurance. Is this what was once called the resolute approach?

The author is Labour spokesman on foreign affairs.

What role now for the Army?

The British Army has been bracing itself to fight a third world war ever since the second one ended. The threat from a belligerent Soviet Union shaped its understanding of defence and focused attention on a set of clear objectives. The sudden diminution of that threat has thus blurred the Army's vision of its future.

The sensation is a relatively novel one. Throughout the 18th and first part of the 19th centuries British soldiers and sailors prepared to fight the French, before turning to meet the Russians, then the Germans. In between, when European politics seemed benign, there was always the Empire to fashion and maintain or that blistering route to India to protect. The Army has rarely lacked a sense of mission.

Officially it is not without one now. If the Vienna talks on Conventional Forces in Europe carry on as planned they should produce a treaty later this year which will cut Nato forces on the continent. The effect on the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) remains unclear, but a reduction of between 10 and 15 per cent is the maximum expected.

The impact of this on the 1st British Corps would be manageable. In one sense it would enable some tidying up, by removing a number of units which have been badly located since the war — because that is where they happened to be when peace broke out. The loss of one of its eight armoured brigades would probably be the worst operational impact on the Corps.

The other seven would carry on training for the time being, preparing to face an invasion from the east.

But this slow *diminuendo* seems unlikely. At best its pace is likely to be quickened as pressure increases for East-West disengagement. Even if the run-down in forces continues to be managed within the CFE framework the dismantling of most, if not all, of BAOR well before the

end of this decade now looks probable. The Army, in other words, will soon start shrinking. How far it should shrink is a matter for debate. Before the last war, that is before we had an army on the continent, it was 220,000 strong: 122,000 were based in Britain, up to 55,000 in India (the same number as in BAOR), and 43,000 were scattered around the *pax britannica*. Thirty years ago Sir Basil Liddell Hart, surveying the dissolution of the Empire, thought that a total of 140,000 should suffice. On that view, the Army is already over-strength at 165,000 — though this includes 16,000 in training and 8,000 Gurkhas.

Its size should depend on the jobs it has to do. But this is where the difficulty lies. It is not that the Ministry of Defence needs bright ideas, of which there is an *embarras de richesses*. It is rather that few of these bear close analysis, while those which do are strikingly peripheral.

Withdrawal from West Germany and Berlin would leave the 11,000 in Northern Ireland as the biggest number outside mainland Britain. Small contingents remain in Gibraltar, Cyprus, Belize, the Falkland Islands, Brunei (a battalion of Gurkhas) and, until 1997, in Hong Kong. There are also training teams and temporary detachments on loan or secondment in parts of the Third World, the number of which could increase. So could United Nations peace-keeping duties. The sudden availability of first-class troops (not just from Britain) might enable more use to be made of the Blue Berets.

Anti-terrorist operations (outside Ireland) suggest yet another job opportunity, to which the war against the drugs trade might be added. But this is unlikely to be manpower-intensive, probably involving primarily the Special Air Service.

It is tempting to talk of expanding the SAS, which now comprises one small regiment

based in Hereford. But the number of suitable volunteers is limited. Only one out of every five applicants is accepted and the regiment could not easily double in size unless it lowered its standards and its quality. Nor is there a convincing precedent. At no time since its post-war revival in 1952 has the 22nd Regiment SAS had to be de-

ployed at its full strength anywhere — including the Falklands War eight years ago when it returned to its wartime role of operating behind enemy lines.

Nor is it conceivable that the Army could resume its old responsibilities of "world policeman". Intervention in some overseas imbroglio, whether or not by invitation of the govern-



Henry Stanhope foresees big cuts — including an almost total run-down in Germany — as Soviet forces leave Eastern Europe

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ment, would have serious foreign policy (and budget) implications. The idea, however romantically expressed, of British soldiers standing by like guardian angels is unconvincing.

In fact the larger part of a smaller British Army would probably continue to share two major roles. One would be the defence of the realm in Britain itself. This is already the responsibility of a general at United Kingdom Land Forces headquarters outside Salisbury who in wartime would command a mixed force of regular and Territorial Army troops, now garrisoned throughout the country's military districts. Troops could also play a bigger role in supporting the civil power, most

notably the fire services and the police, in close collaboration with the Home Office.

The other role would be in Europe. The reinforcement of allied forces on the continent, for whatever reason, is likely to remain the Army's prime responsibility abroad. Troops will train and exercise with our allies to help meet any crisis. They should accordingly retain a modest headquarters — not necessarily on the continent — to provide the basic structure, in infantry, artillery and armour, on which an expeditionary force could build.

It is too easily assumed that the future British Army could lean heavily in wartime on an expanded reserve. But there are at least two objections to this theory. In the first place, even the best reserves come a poor second to regular troops in an emergency. Secondly, to expand the Territorial Army is more easily said than done. It is 15 per cent below strength as it is, despite periodic advertising campaigns.

All this means that we are probably thinking of a regular Army a little over two-thirds of its present size. The Royal Armoured Corps may feel the cuts most deeply, its new main battle tank probably now a distant dream. But a number of famous old regiments, including infantry, will be merged or reduced to reserve status. Demobilization will be painful and expensive, given that not all might be achieved through natural wastage.

The departure from West Germany would be bearable. Life in BAOR has become frustrating for many units, with wives finding it difficult to get jobs there. Although the Russians are withdrawing, they may still have to play the part of bogymen, providing a yardstick beside which British forces and theirs can be measured. In the absence of a new one coming forward, the last enemy has a crucial role to play.

American battle starts for the spoils of peace

Washington

The "peace dividend" money which the US is supposed to save by reducing its anti-Soviet deterrent is the champion buzz word in Washington right now. In a recent magazine survey, it beat "ethics" and "Vaclav Havel" with ease. In Congress they talk of little else in this election year.

Some 600 eager politicians have seen the non-working of contemporary communism; each wants a large reward for his district back home. President Bush has seen the congressmen; he wants to keep them off his back with a "small dividend" from the reduction in defence spending plans. White House henchmen are this week giving advice to the legislators on just how small is small. The listeners do not like what they hear.

Some buzz words are one-week wonders. Others — and peace dividend is one — ebb and flow down the years. The US gave itself a dividend after the Vietnam War. It gave Egypt one after Camp David. Now it would love to give Gorbachov one.

Peter Stothard reports on claims to surplus millions that do not exist

Familiarity does not, however, breed comprehension. The "war dividend" of olden days was easy. You raided and pillaged and divided the spoils. Then you repeated the trick until your yowls let you down and somebody else took over the dividing.

A peace dividend is different. This is a reappropriation of money you may have intended to spend on defence. It is not money you necessarily would have spent, certainly not money that you own. Like many ancient city states, the US has borrowed heavily to secure the safety of itself and its friends. There is no spare gold to go round.

Last December, when President Bush spoke to Nato leaders, he seemed to have this truth clearly in view. He dismissed the whole dividend idea: any savings would be used to reduce the deficit on the US current account. Now he seems somewhat less resistant to the charms of fashion. This week he allowed his budget director, Richard

Darman, to put forward enough to satisfy at least some congressional demands for job creation, farm subsidies, welfare benefits and other dividends of peace.

At the same time, however, he allowed Darman — the biggest intellect in his administration — to devise an intricate budget which is no more honest and persuasive about its deficit-cutting intentions than was the last. Arguably, the only real peace dividend, as a senior Democrat congressman told me the other day, is for President Bush himself, who can more easily keep his pledge of "no new taxes".

If any dispassionate person were to read the whole budget book (which, its creator admits, would take a year of careful eight-hours-a-day study), he or she could conclude only that its writer was a Byzantine rogue. That, of course, is not Darman's fault. His inquisitor's skills, honed in the service of three presidents, Nixon, Reagan and Bush, are merely the only

weapon able to cope with the problems of sharing government with the hostile men on Capitol Hill.

US budget policy represents the sum of two contradictory wishes by the US electorate — money for themselves and meanness (call it caution) towards other Americans. As long as voters elect Republican presidents and Democrat legislators, men like Darman will never lack employment.

The task of running the White House Office of Management and Budget needs a formidable mental flexibility — the sort of skill that the budget director learnt when he studied Elizabethan symbolism at Oxford in the 1960s. Twenty-five years later, when a man was needed to impersonate Michael Dukakis in rehearsals for the televised presidential election debates, Darman was the automatic choice.

He did not mind taking the catcalls of "Shorty" as he stood on the specially raised podium

for the diminutive would-be president. He just did his usual job of trying to fit big bills into a small pot of money without anyone noticing. He apparently did it much better than the governor of Massachusetts ever did, although, since he cuts his own hair, he never quite achieved the scrubbed-fresh Dukakis look.

Richard Darman, however, is more than just an intellectual mechanic. He is a prophet. He not only produces cynical budgets, but, with the same pen, writes messages of doom about what will happen if such budgets continue to be produced.

Knowing that congressmen watch television only to see themselves or to keep their children occupied, he drew his imagery from *Sesame Street* and *Pac Man*. He accused the politicians of ignoring the self-devouring monsters — the legislation on health and nuclear clean-up bills — which will destroy future budgets unless

tough decisions are made now.

He is the ideal man to administer a peace dividend. He is a great divider. His biggest contribution to the US public spending process was to import the British system of setting a notional public purse and asking departments to bid for a share of it rather than for the biggest number they could think of. The result was to set cabinet members at each other's throats rather than at the budget director's.

Some of the Bush team may live to be grateful for that. It does not do to get on the wrong side of the divisive Darman, President Reagan's spokesman. Larry Speakes, was rewarded for some implied insult with the following Darmanesque note. "It has been my experience that the wheel turns round and round in this town. Please be assured that the next time I am in a position to influence the prospects of your success, failure or capacity to serve, I shall remember your thoughts."

Speakes is not enjoying the best of fortune.

The night I played couscousberry



GRIFF RHYS JONES

might have buried his head in *le Vic* and grunted, but they were less than a baguette's length away. We were *tête-à-tête* whether we liked it or not.

They naturally asked me to join

them, which I naturally did. But two's company at a mock Parisian marble-topped table and three's a catastrophe. Bits of the table arrangement kept falling on the floor. Things were not helped by two carrier bags of reading matter and an unfoldable *Independent Review*.

We talked Islington. Mary was flat-hunting in the area. It's the mortgage rate that keeps Islington's café society going. Nobody can afford to eat seriously.

Cafés are not the place for discreet assignments. There is an excellent patisserie in Soho called Maison Berthaud. You choose your delicious pastry downstairs and go upstairs to your table.

Many years ago I took a delicious pastry of my own there. The only other occupants were Maurice Richardson and my then regular girlfriend's father. Behind us the waitress was fussing up the stairs with our loaded tray. There was no turning back. I was plunged into a Forties comedy.

"This is Claire, a very old friend of mine," I said.

"This is my daughter's boyfriend," he said.

I tried to make it appear that I bunched off work every afternoon to take tea in upstairs rooms with voluptuous young female opera singers, but the look in their eyes took the edge off my rum babble.

On Saturday, on the way out, I

bumped into John and Lise. "Mary and Nigel are in there," I said cheerily. They glanced at each other, significantly. Really!

If people must have intimate liaisons they should stick to an underlit Tandoori. Does such a thing still exist west of Haringey? At least down my bit of the Goswell Road it is still egg, beans and chips in any combination, without croissants. But the city wine-bars are creeping up from the south and the pseudo-gallic cafés from the north. How long can it be before they meet in one giant puddle of brown wood and fake marble full of friends having quiet moments? I can't wait.

What the original inhabitants make of it is anyone's guess. They can buy seven varieties of almond croissant but there still isn't a *Next* or a W.H. Smith. "C'est la vie," as they say in the Balls Pond Road.



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SPENDING STRATEGY

The public expenditure White Paper published by the Government yesterday should act as a cautionary tale for the Chancellor, Mr John Major, as he prepares his Budget. The rise in spending of £5.5 billion compared with the plans set out for 1990-91 this time last year will clearly make it more difficult to achieve the prudent fiscal policy which is needed to buttress monetary policy and bring down inflation.

In the Government's defence it should be noted that the rise in spending does not fully accommodate the rise in inflation since the earlier plans were set out. Public spending next year is still expected to turn out at 39 per cent of total spending in the economy. That is higher than this year only because with inflation higher than expected spending in the economy has been higher and public spending therefore lower as a proportion.

By allocating more money to priority programmes such as health and roads the Government has also maximized the political return on its investment. Though a Conservative Government can never hope — nor should it attempt — to trump Labour by promising higher public spending, its favoured programmes are for the most part well chosen and should help to soothe public demands.

Nevertheless ministers cannot afford to be complacent about present trends. After several successful years in which spending turned out lower than expected and fell as a proportion of national income the present situation is less satisfactory. Not only is spending expected to rise next year as a proportion of the economy, it is creeping up above the planning total in the current year. According to the White Paper this year's outturn is now expected to be £1.36 billion above the original plans, a rather larger excess than forecast at the time of the autumn statement.

Much of the overrun is, as ever, a reflection of higher spending than expected by the local authorities. That may change with the introduction of the community charge in April which should exert greater local accountability. But the City is uneasy that by redefining public spending from next year, and excluding

councils' locally financed spending, the Government is evading its responsibilities and may allow spending to surge out of control. In that context the overrun on local spending this year is not reassuring.

Although these thoughts are bound to be uppermost in people's minds as the Budget approaches, the importance of the White Paper lies more in what it tells us about the supply side of the public sector than in overall totals and trends. Following the changes introduced by the Treasury in the past two years, egged on by the Treasury Select Committee, the White Paper is now both less important and more important than it used to be in the Government's publication calendar.

It is less important as an indicator of macro-economic policy because all the detail is now contained in the Chancellor's autumn statement. It is more important because by splitting the chapters of the former publication into separate volumes and expanding them there is more opportunity to provide a comprehensive view not only of what a department is spending but also of what it is buying.

Among many performance indicators scattered through the 21 chapters is, for instance, the information that the Inland Revenue's cost per employee on income tax cases has fallen in real terms between 1985-86 and 1988-89 from £13.07 to £12.36. This is a useful piece of management accounting which tells us more than the information in many other programmes that targets have been exceeded by such-and-such. But without some indication of the quality of service it is still incomplete.

Undoubtedly there is still a long way to go before the White Paper achieves an ideal form. Departmental inertia is considerable and the vested interests of politicians and Civil Servants in presenting a favourable report on their activities must be recognized. Irritatingly for her colleagues but fortunately for the taxpayer, the present Prime Minister has an unprecedented interest in good management in government. It is important that the public expenditure White Paper is both well written and well read if value for money is to become more than a slogan.

WHERE POTSDAM LEFT OFF

Those who have followed the evolution of Mikhail Gorbachev's thinking on the German question will not have been surprised by his seemingly abrupt admission yesterday that, "in principle, no one puts (German reunification) in doubt." Such a gambit has looked ever more likely during the two years since, in conversation with the late Franz Josef Strauss, Mr Gorbachev dropped the first hint by affirming his belief that the Germans were "one nation". Last June, the Soviet leader came to Bonn to affirm the right of all peoples, including the Germans, to decide their own destinies.

His new strategy amounts to nothing less than an abandonment of Soviet support for a separate German Democratic Republic, in favour of a reversion to Stalin's policy, which aimed at detaching Germany from the Western camp and the Americans from Europe. At the time of Stalin's celebrated note of 1952, Adenauer persuaded Washington to reject the offer of German unity at the price of neutrality; Churchill was more inclined to accept.

Nearly three momentous months after the opening of the Berlin Wall, and with the East German communist leader, Herr Gysi, joining virtually the entire spectrum of opposition in declaring himself for reunification, it would be unrealistic for a Soviet leader to seek to prevent the healing of the livid scar which has run across the heart of Europe since 1945. But it is likely that he will not let East Germany, the chief factor in Soviet military strategy, slip out of his grasp, except at a price.

What that price might be, the West does not yet know. Hitherto, the obsession of the West, no less than the East, with arms control has left more profound political questions in the shade. But if Mr Gorbachev himself is in no doubt that "it is necessary to act responsibly and not decide this important question on the streets", then it should be a matter of urgency

for problems to be raised soon by all the interested powers. This faces the possibility of some organized negotiation.

The German question is a European problem. Only by conceding to the Germans the peace treaty which never followed the Second World War, and in which the emerging democracies of central Europe also have an interest, can that problem be resolved. The voices which were absent from the Potsdam conference, the nearest that Europe came to such a treaty, must now be heard. That means not only the voices of the Germans but of the Poles, Czechs and French.

The German people alone have the right to decide on the principles which a unified state would incorporate into its new constitution. Few East Germans seem averse to the extension to themselves of a system closely resembling, if not identical with, the present Federal Republic. There would be no grounds for other countries to object to this; and no grounds for the Germans to arouse unnecessary anxieties by refusing to give reasonable constitutional guarantees to their neighbours.

Quite apart from the specific problem of Berlin and the residual sovereign rights of the occupying powers, the political orientation of a united Germany is a legitimate concern of all Europeans. Bonn and its allies therefore need to determine the best structure in which various concerns can be expressed and discussed.

The four-power machinery is clearly not the suitable vehicle. A suggestion has been aired that the four powers should become six to discuss the future, with the addition of both German governments. Such a conference could perhaps be formally established as a section of a broader debate undertaken in the CSCE (Conference on security and co-operation in Europe).

TRADESMEN BEWARE

The conviction of an electrician for manslaughter in Maidstone Crown Court yesterday has extended the criminal law into areas which most people had assumed were beyond its reach. Many a jobbing tradesman will have to rethink his attitude in the light of it.

Those who are conscientious and properly trained will have nothing to fear, of course; but those who have made a living out of shoddy work are henceforth on notice that they are answerable to a judge and jury, and if seriously at fault, at risk of a prison sentence.

As a result of this case, furthermore, they are on notice that any failure to take a customer's subsequent complaint of their workmanship seriously could also — if death resulted — bring them within the reach of the criminal law. It is a pity that serious injury not resulting in death is not also similarly covered; there is a need for some offence roughly equivalent to "attempted manslaughter," or causing serious injury by recklessness.

The law of involuntary manslaughter has long been a difficult area. The offence consists, essentially, of causing death by gross negligence. The offence is not defined by statute, and the courts have had to rely on a series of judicial interpretations. In a sense this works in favour of the public, for no one can be sure in advance where the line will be drawn in a new case, and of how much negligence amounts to "gross."

The leading cases down the years have shown a gradual sharpening and refining of the legal definition, especially concerning the degree of negligence that is required to justify a conviction. Lawyers will be particularly interested in the unusual circumstances of the Maidstone case, for it was a classic piece of bad workmanship which led to the tragic death of an innocent man.

Mr Stephen Holloway, a self-employed electrician, installed the electrical side of a central heating system. Unfortunately a live wire was connected to the domestic pipework by mistake. Members of the household complained of severe shocks, but when called back to attend to them, Mr Holloway repeatedly put the shocks down to static electricity and declared the system safe. Eventually Mr Nicholas French, grandson of the householder, was electrocuted when he touched the metal kitchen sink while standing in his socks on a damp floor. Afterwards it took the electricity board less than half an hour to trace the fault.

Mr Holloway's criminal negligence, for which he received a suspended nine months' jail sentence, consisted not merely in the initial wrong connection but in his failure to take the complaints seriously enough to discover the original fault by adequate testing. Whether the first act would alone have been sufficient to support a charge of manslaughter was not resolved, though it bears a striking resemblance to the mistake which led to the Clapham train disaster, which is also to be the subject of manslaughter prosecutions.

A skilled man should have had little difficulty in telling the difference between static electricity and a live connection once he had taken the householders' complaints seriously enough to consider the point. Simple tests would have confirmed it. But householders are at the mercy of anyone with — or claiming — expertise in a technical area. They are entitled to assume he knows what he is talking about. In future any tradesman who covers his ignorance with bluff or his indifference with smooth assurances should remember that he could find himself in prison.

Landscape rent by wind and storm

From Mr Alan Morris
Sir, The devastation suffered by this estate during the hurricane of 1987 was so great that British Telecom used a photograph taken during their valiant efforts to restore our service in their brochure. We were repaid with statements by various Government ministers about all the help that would be given to restore the English countryside.

Yet, despite our loss of some 10,000-15,000 trees in the heart of Ashdown Forest, many of great beauty and antiquity, we never qualified for a grant — apparently because we are a privately-owned, non-commercial estate, with no public access.

Ironically, two days before this last storm struck, we carried out a rough survey, and concluded that this year would see the end of the clearing up operation and that we could concentrate on our replanting efforts.

Now it has happened again, and many of the lovely trees which withstood the hurricane have gone. Again we hear the same promises from Government ministers. We will just have to carry on on our own, as before.

However, your leading article, "Storms and scapegoats" (January 27), raises the interesting point that this sort of weather may be what we can expect for the foreseeable future. Does the Government know something that we do not, and believe that there is no point in replanting?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN MORRIS,
Pippinford Park,
Nuttley, Sussex,
January 27.

From the President of the Garden History Society
Sir, It is indeed a tragedy that, once again, our historic landscapes such as Stonor Park in Oxfordshire and Mount Edgcumbe in Cornwall, both given Grade I status on English Heritage's register of parks and gardens of special historic interest, have suffered such devastating storm damage. After the 1987 great storm English Heritage introduced a scheme of grants for those historic parks and gardens judged to be of "outstanding" historic importance by its gardens committee and additional staff were appointed to assist the gardens inspector in dealing with applications.

Excellent leaflets are still available from English Heritage, Room 314, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, W1X 2HE, instructing landowners and agents how to make applications for storm damage grants for restoration schemes. Task Force Trees, a special unit set up by the Countryside Commission following the storm, also grant-aided many storm-damaged

parts on the English Heritage register.

Increasingly, historic landscapes have come to be seen as a much-valued part of our heritage and it is essential that the funds and effort made in 1987, for which many landowners and the nation as a whole have had cause to be grateful, should be supplemented to deal with this latest blow to our landscape heritage.

Yours faithfully,
MAVIS BATEY, President,
The Garden History Society,
West House, Barnack Lane,
Aldwick, West Sussex,
January 29.

From the Earl of Limerick
Sir, Mr. Richard Jones (January 29) remarks that he has yet to see a fallen Wellingtonia. Alas, I can show him one from my magnificent double avenue, which measured its full 130-foot length along the ground on January 25. It succumbed to a south-westerly gale, although its roots had developed to resist gales from that quarter.

In the October, 1987, hurricane two of these trees snapped off about 40 feet up, with wind from the south. Northerly gales in 1988 took the tops from three more, all discernibly cracked from 1987.

The other Californian redwood, the *Sequoia sempervirens* of the coastal regions, is much more vulnerable both to snapping and uprooting, but unlike the Wellingtonia it shoots again freely even from a fallen stump.

Other species succumbing last week which had survived 1987 included cypresses, maples and eucalyptus (the larch had virtually all gone). The remaining hardwoods stood better without their leaves. The tentative conclusion is that in the face of such ferocious winds the age and leaf-state of a tree may be more significant than its type.

Yours faithfully,
LIMERICK,
Chiddingfold, West Hants,
East Grinstead, Sussex,
January 29.

From Dr R. P. Fernando
Sir, Following the recent storm, engineers from several electricity boards have been sent to areas which have incurred the greatest damage to power lines. It is doubtful whether such co-operation will be possible following privatization, when the area boards will become separate, private-sector companies. Consumers will inevitably face further disruption to their electricity supplies.

The nation would be well advised to pray that such storms do not recur.
Yours truly,
ROHANATHA P. FERNANDO,
19 Danetree Close,
Ewell, Surrey,
January 26.

Crisis in Caucasus

From Dr Metin Kunt

Sir, Whatever the merits of the Armenian claim to Highland Karabakh, it is astonishing that C. J. Walker ("Moscow's blind eye to injustice", January 23) ends with allegations against and demands from the Turkish Republic, in spite of the fact that the present conflict in the Caucasus does not involve Turkey at all.

Neither the settlement of the Armenian demand from Azerbaijan nor the resolution of national and political aspirations of the peoples of the Caucasus would warrant repetition of the unproven charge of genocide during the First World War. While it is true and regrettable that hundreds of thousands of Armenians perished in the process of forced resettlement in wartime conditions, many more civilian Turks died of disease and famine.

The Ottoman state had been guilty of wholesale massacres of Turks in the sixteenth and seven-

teenth centuries, but so far as I know, nobody claims Ottoman genocide against Turks in this century. How, then, can one explain the enormous wartime mortality among Turks if a similar mortality rate among Armenians justifies the charge of genocide?

The fact that Mr Walker seeks territorial compensation from Turkey is even more astonishing. Armenians do not constitute a majority in eastern Anatolia, even before the First World War; there are very few of them there now. What, then, is the justification for territorial concessions? European audiences should realize that such absurd demands on the part of Armenian propagandists make it very difficult for Turks to demonstrate proper regret over Armenian deaths three quarters of a century ago.

Yours sincerely,
METIN KUNT,
Cambridge University,
Centre of Middle Eastern Studies,
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge,
January 23.

Fund for East Europe

From Mr Tom Spencer, MEP for Surrey West (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, The £15 million European Democracy Fund (report, January 29), although proposed by Christian Democrats and Conservatives in the European Parliament, was not designed for centre right groups only, but for any party or group legitimately contesting elections in Eastern Europe which can demonstrate a need for material assistance.

The ruling parties in these countries still control the means to fight elections.

The proposed fund would resemble the US Congress National Endowment for Democracy, a bipartisan non-governmental scheme to support democratic movements.

Yours etc,
TOM SPENCER,
Thornfield House,
Northchapel,
West Sussex.

Entente cordiale

From Mr Jonathan Benthall

Sir, Lord Weidenfeld argues persuasively (article, January 19) that the excellent record of the West German Government, and the good will of the younger generation of Germans, deserve considerable trust. However, does this not need to be balanced by closer bilateral relations between Britain and France, within the wider EC framework? These two nations, whose past and potential contributions to the world need no underlining, are now each at risk of being marginalized.

Where credit's due

From Mr Peter J. Sisam

Sir, The technical credits that appear at the end of films have been with us a long time (letters, January 10/13/15/19/25). As a holder of a technician's union card I know the importance, especially for freelance workers, of some form of recognition. Is it not time that film producers and unions together worked out some more sensible form of recognition? The present one has become a joke, and does no good to the industry.

How about a certificate of participation, approved by unions and management, to be given to each technician in a film or television programme, on completion of the production? It would be good to see our industry, which has frequently set high standards in the international media world, do so in this particular matter.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SISAM,
3 Henley Road,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Value for money on TV franchise

From Lord Thomson of Monifieth and others

Sir, As the last three chairmen of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, we are naturally proud of the fact that for the last 35 years, under successive acts of Parliament, Independent Television has provided viewers in Britain with the unique achievement of a public broadcasting system of quality, yet wholly commercially financed. We plead that Parliament, in the new Broadcasting Bill, will preserve that distinctive quality.

We welcome the fact that between publication of the White Paper and the Bill the Government showed a willingness to make changes, and that ministers have since said they may be ready to consider further amendments in response to reasoned arguments.

Amongst a number of matters of considerable concern in the Bill, we place particular importance on modifying the present proposal to allocate a commercial television contract to the highest bidder, albeit from a shoplist of those whose promises of programme quality have proved acceptable to the new Independent Television Commission.

We believe that this will lead to a serious risk of over-bidding. The consequent financial pressures will result in reduced resources for programme making and in lower standards overall and endanger the provision of serious drama, documentaries and educational programmes.

If the Government are not prepared to accept some of the more radical alternatives that have been suggested to safeguard quality, we urge them at least to adopt the majority recommendation of the Peacock committee that the ITC should have the right to decide that a company offering a lower price was giving more value for money in terms of public service, and accordingly award the franchise to them, while making a public statement of its reasons.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMSON
(Chairman, Independent Television Authority, 1981-88),
BRIDGET PLOWDEN (1975-80),
HERBERT AYLESTONE (1967-75),
9 Cavendish Place, W1.

From the Minister of State,
Home Office
Sir, The letter from the chairman of Granada Television which appeared in your columns today about the Government's broad-

Arts research grants

From the Secretary of the Graduate Tutors' Committee, Cambridge University

Sir, May I draw your readers' attention to the fact that research students in arts subjects, funded by the British Academy, are this year receiving maintenance awards which are £600 lower than those offered by the Science and Engineering Research Council and other major scientific research councils. In other words, the maintenance grant to a science graduate is £3,125 p.a., whereas it is only £3,125 p.a. to an arts graduate.

This seems hardly fair, especially in view of the fact that, in spite of having experienced an increase in applications, the British Academy, through lack of funding, has actually had to cut

the number of its awards for this academic year, 1989-90. As tutors for research students in both science and arts subjects we urge the Department of Education and Science to do all it can to redress this balance when it allots funding to the British Academy for the coming academic year.

A studentship of £3,725 p.a. is already well below the support provided by our competitors in other advanced societies. A studentship of £3,125 p.a. is positively pitiful. These students are tomorrow's university teachers: but on a grant such as this, some are unlikely even to survive the course.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MELLOR,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
January 30.

To the extent that there are substantial quality differences between applicants who do clear the quality threshold — and I am not convinced that this will be a very frequent occurrence — the Bill already gives the ITC power to consider whether these constitute "exceptional circumstances" enabling them to override the highest financial bid in order to award the licence to an applicant offering a significantly higher quality of programming.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MELLOR,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
January 30.

the number of its awards for this academic year, 1989-90. As tutors for research students in both science and arts subjects we urge the Department of Education and Science to do all it can to redress this balance when it allots funding to the British Academy for the coming academic year.

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Yours faithfully,
MARIE LOVATT, Secretary
Graduate Tutors' Committee,
University of Cambridge,
Wolfson College, Cambridge.

Watchdog on health

From the Chairman of the Mental Health Act Commission

Sir, Professor Seager's important letter (January 23), in indicating the way forward for the maintenance and development of an inspectorial system for health care services, omits to mention the role of the Mental Health Act Commission in monitoring the care and treatment of people with mental health problems.

The commission has a statutory obligation to keep under review the care and treatment of people detained or liable to be detained under the Mental Health Act

1983. It regularly visits all those hospitals (both NHS and private) containing detained patients, and meets with social service departments, as well as investigating complaints that fall within its remit from detained patients and others.

Every two years the commission publishes a report of its activities; the third biennial report was published in December, 1989.

Yours etc,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
Chairman,
Mental Health Act Commission,
Room 22, Highbury House,
Marshall Street, SW1,
January 25.

Cambridge agency

From Councillor David Howarth

Sir, You report today (January 23) that Mr Rhodes-James, MP, is "furious" about the decision of Cambridge City Council's environment committee to oppose the siting of the European Environmental Agency in Cambridge. The decision is indeed a bizarre one. It is motivated by a potent mixture of sheer parochialism and anti-European and anti-intellectual feeling.

Mr Rhodes-James should direct his fury, however, not only against the Labour majority on Cambridge Council, but also against his own local Conservative colleagues, since it was they who began the attack on bringing the Environmental Agency to Cambridge in the first place. In fact, only the Liberal Democrats support the proposal.

The issue is important both for its own sake, and also because it illustrates the deep divisions in Europe that affect the Labour and Conservative parties, right down to local level.

We in Cambridge are witnessing, on a small scale, the dire consequences of the two-party system, for neither the governing nor the opposing party can offer a coherent policy on the two great issues of the day, Europe and the environment.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOWARTH,
Clare College,
Cambridge,
January 23.

Middle of the road?

From Mr David Yorke

Sir, The Reverend D. Humphries' filing system (January 22) which places "Angels" and "Anxiety" in "Angels" and "Anxiety" is logical. However a more ecclesiastical system would no doubt put "Man" below "Angels" and "Woman (virtuous)" above "Rubies".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID YORKE,
Holford Manor,
North Chalfont, Sussex.

From Mr Gordon Hobbs
Sir, Mr Justice Sheen (January 26) should be reassured that in Halsbury's *Laws of England* (4th edition, reissue) "Barristers" no longer appears between "Bankruptcy" and "Betting". However, might I refer him to the sequence in Volume 13: "Discovery"; "Dis-ress"; "Divorce"? Yours faithfully,
GORDON HOBBS (Editor,
Halsbury's *Laws of England*),
Butterworths Law Publishers Ltd.,
88 Kingsway, WC2.

From Mr Charles Sussex
Sir, Mr Justice Sheen may derive assistance from the former edition of Halsbury's *Laws of England* (the third), where "Barristers" were placed between "Bankruptcy" and "Bastardy". Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SUSSEX,
2 Essex Court, Temple, EC4,
January 26.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

Dutch treat for British schools

How are Dutch teachers preparing to help tackle the crisis in our classrooms? Douglas Broom reports

Marga Veen is a Dutch relief worker. She is 21, just out of college, and heading for Britain to help solve a crisis that threatens the education of thousands of children in London and the south-east.

Although she has never had a full-time teaching job in her native Amsterdam, and her experience of Britain is limited to a week spent in Milton Keynes five years ago, Veen wants to take on one of the most demanding jobs in teaching. If she is successful, she will fly to London in a few weeks' time to take up a teaching post in Hounslow, a deprived and racially troubled borough close to Heathrow airport.

But unlike the 60 Dutch teachers recruited to help plug London's chronic teacher shortages last September, Veen is not entirely unprepared: she is one of the first graduates of a new course at the University of Amsterdam designed to give recruits from The Netherlands some idea of what they are coming to.

Judith Burdell, one of the English tutors on the 10-day course, says that many of the first intake were shocked at the contrasts between the formal Dutch education system, where all schools follow a national curriculum, and the more progressive teaching methods favoured in London. In addition to the problems of having to work in a foreign language all day, many had difficulty coping with a situation in which they were simply given a timetable, and told to devise their own lessons.

Professor Chris Mullard, Professor of Education and Ethnic Studies at Amsterdam University, is critical of the methods used by the Inner London Education Au-

thority to recruit the first wave of Dutch teachers last summer. Finding itself short of more than 1,000 teachers, the Labour-controlled authority resorted to a "press-gang" approach, with the result that recruitment was "unprofessional in the extreme", he says. His "grave concerns" prompted him to set up Euroselect, the consultancy which now runs the Amsterdam course.

Mullard, a pioneer of "anti-racist education", had particular worries. "We initiated this because we were very upset by the initial foray by Dea, which recruited almost only white teachers. Forty per cent of schools in Amsterdam have significant numbers of black children in them. We also have a considerable number of black teachers, but Dea did not appear to look at them."

The formation of Euroselect was prompted by a desire to base crisis recruitment on "a firm ethical basis". If Dutch teachers are going to predominantly black schools in London, Mullard asks, would it not help if they too were black?

His approach seems to have won support from Labour and Conservative education authorities alike. Dea was one of the first to sign up for Euroselect's services. Although the authority, due to be abolished in nine weeks, has now halted its recruitment drive, Euroselect is working for outer London boroughs such as Hounslow and Newham, as well as Essex, Berkshire, Kent and Liverpool.

There is no shortage of applicants. The Netherlands has 3,000 unemployed teachers, the result of a system of higher education that lacks Britain's checks on the supply of graduates, particularly teachers. Any Dutch pupil who gains the equivalent of



Trainee task force: (from left) Netty Terborg, Win Castermans and Marga Veen, three of Euroselect's teacher recruits who are currently undergoing the 10-day preparation course

one A level is guaranteed a place at university or college. And, until recently, there were no restrictions on the number of students who could apply to train as teachers.

The British Government's decision last year to recognize the teaching qualifications of all European Community teachers opened the way to Continental recruitment drives to ease teacher shortages at home. The Netherlands' special attraction derives from the fact that it has an abundant supply of qualified teachers who speak English. The country's position in the entrepot of Europe has created a business culture which demands multilingualism and a truly European outlook. English, the language of international commerce, is the nation's second language, taught to all schoolchildren.

Euroselect has 500 Dutch teachers on its computerized application list, largely as a result of intensive newspaper advertising.

Applicants go through three screening sessions before being offered to local authorities, who pay the £1,250-a-head cost of the 10-day course. Only those who seem almost certain of making the grade get to start the course.

After a period of intensive study of the English education system, from examinations to teaching techniques, they are assessed by the course tutors and, if they pass muster, a certificate is awarded.

Trouble is taken to ensure that nothing about the English system takes the students - mostly experienced teachers, although some, like Veen, are fresh from teacher training college - by surprise. On Monday Burdell was introducing the eight students on the latest course to "the carpet", a vital feature of the English primary school classroom. Several

heads were scratched as she explained that a corner of the room is carpeted and cut off from the rest of the class by bookshelves or cupboards. The carpet is a refuge for teacher and pupils alike.

Trudy Rood, from Luttrell, north of Amsterdam, was less baffled than the others; she has spent four years teaching infants at her local village school. "We did not have the carpet, but I see what the idea means. We are used to using textbooks so the project-based approach will be very different, but I think it is exciting to do something different," she says.

"I think it is an advantage that English is not our first language because, from what we have been told, it is not the first language of some children in the schools where we will be going."

Veen, who has spent six months as a supply teacher, is very keen to return to England. "I love children and I liked England," she says.

Sonia Giersthoof is from Surinam, where she spent 20 years teaching primary age pupils. Although she fears that her English may need some polishing, she has no fears about multi-cultural Britain. "Surinam is a multi-cultural society. I think going to England is a challenge because if you are a teacher you want to teach all kinds of children."

Ravi Kabeerthiran is something of an exception to the general rule. A Tamil from Sri Lanka, he sought political asylum in The Netherlands and has just been granted Dutch citizenship. He spent 14 years as a teacher in his native country before being driven out by the internal war. Now he hopes to resume his teaching career in Hounslow.

"I know it is not going to be easy," he says. "But I have worked with the English and you cannot allow your life to come to a halt. I want to get back to my own job

and there is no chance of doing that here."

The extent of the job shortage at home is demonstrated by Win Castermans, who has been unable to teach since qualifying eight years ago. He believes that coming to London will change all that. "If you can say that you have worked in England it will be much easier to get a job here," he says. "And it is exciting to do something you have never done before."

None of the students on the course lacked enthusiasm, and all seemed to share Mullard's belief that the exchange of teachers could help bring Europe closer together. He wants Euroselect to spread its area of operations to embrace the whole of the EC.

In the meantime, though, with 1,288 unfilled teaching vacancies in London alone, he has his work cut out helping to put Dutch teachers in front of English classes to prevent pupils being sent home.

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Sister Superior

The solicitor who auctioned the kidnapped baby story to the tabloid Press is a Sicilian mother with 'blood that boils easily'

Solicitor Simonetta Hornby's first reaction to the telephone call which woke her on Saturday morning was: "Are they my clients? Don't they know I'm convalescing?" Nearing the end of a three-month convalescence period following a hysterectomy, Hornby had not been paying much attention to the case of the missing baby which had been dominating the media.

Now, on the day after the baby was found, she was being asked to represent Alexandra's parents, Dawn Griffiths and Jeffrey Harris, in their negotiations to sell their story to the tabloid Press.

"No, I did not jump out of bed," says the woman described by the media as "the fast-talking, pipe-smoking solicitor" scathingly. "I prepared myself for the job. I tried to learn as much as I could about the case while I was waiting for the minicab. I tried to find

out what one does in that sort of circumstance." What she actually did was to read the morning paper and discuss the matter with her partner, Marcia Levy, before setting herself behind the negotiating table at St Thomas's Hospital and auctioning her clients' story. It is not an expression she much likes. "I was instructed by my clients to deal with various offers they had received prior to my involvement," she says stiffly.

None the less, she admits that she was delighted with her achievement in selling the story for a reputed £75,000 to the *News of the World*. "I'd certainly never done anything like it before. It was an entirely new departure for me." It is not, however, an activity she sees herself repeating. "How many solicitors end up selling stories to the newspapers?" The 44-year-old Sicilian-born child-care solicitor is

normally more accustomed to representing parents who have been accused of sexually abusing their children. Mothers whose children have been taken away from them, children who have been taken into care. Mostly, she does legal aid work. "I'm interested in children because I have two of my own," she says. She points out that Sicilian mothers' lives tend to revolve around their children. She doubts whether she will return to Sicily, where her family still lives. "I expect I shall go wherever my boys go." Her boys are George, aged 19, who is at Bristol University,

'I have been smoking a pipe for 27 years and I bought this one for £15 in the City. It's a rubbish pipe'

and Nicholas, 17, who is at school near their home in Dulwich, in south-east London. She and her economist husband, Martin, separated five years ago. She is small, dark, dynamic - a typical Sicilian, according to the Italian woman with whom she had been living at the Reform Club, "never lukewarm about anything. Her blood boils easily." She already had an Italian law degree when she came to Britain to learn English. She studied in America, returned to England to marry, and then lived for two years in Zambia, where her husband was working. "I got a

job in debt-collecting for a firm of solicitors, where I suppose I learnt law and social services. I was very successful. I used to tell the debtors how little they could get away with and when I left the job I told them, 'Don't pay anything!'" She and Martin settled in Oxford, "had the children one after another and I decided to become a lawyer. I was advised by everybody to become a solicitor because I was a foreigner and a woman, and so I did." She did her articles in a City firm but found that she was too far away from her boys, "so one day I decided to be a mother and get a job with the London borough of Lambeth as a child-care solicitor."

In 1972 she and Levy set up their partnership on the top floor of the Hornbys' house, moving to a rented accommodation before buying their current offices.

She claims that she is not ambitious, but "my sister says that I am". If Hornby has any ambitions, they are to "see greater respect given to the relationship between parents and children. I don't think I have got terribly personal ambitions. I like to enjoy life."

She says she was not concerned by the partly unsympathetic reaction of the Sunday newspapers, who were deprived of their happy reunion quotes by her deal with the *News of the World*. "I told my clients that they should expect that and I expected it." She was much more upset by "the newspapers' stupidity at getting so excited about my pipe. I really got cross about that, but then I realized that not many people smoke a pipe. I have been smoking one for 27 years and I bought this one for £15 in the City. It's a rubbish pipe."

Sally Brompton



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To celebrate its tenth anniversary the jewellery designer Cobra & Bellamy has produced a special, numbered edition, solid-silver charm bracelet and matching necklace featuring 14 hallmarked charms, which are replicas of its 14 most successful earring designs to date. The bracelet costs £390, the necklace £430, but *Times* readers can order either item for £10 off from Cobra & Bellamy, 149 Sloane Street, London SW1 (01-730 2823) where samples will be on display from this week (produce this cutting to obtain the discount).

The pieces will also be available soon from Liberty of Regent Street and the Joseph shop at 26 Sloane Street, London SW1.

Image boost

Joanna Foster, chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission, will introduce a one-day "Present a Professional Image Seminar" on Saturday April 7, hosted by *Good Housekeeping* magazine in association with the Industrial Society. Details and a ticket application coupon are in the *Return to Work Handbook*, free with the current issue of *Good Housekeeping*. Numbers are limited to 60 delegates at the £15 event (which includes lunch), so early booking is essential. There will be counselling and workshop sessions, and the event has been

BRIEFLY
A round-up of news, views and information

put together with the guidance of the Industrial Society's Pepperell Unit and Reed Employment.

Quote me . . .



"Most of us women like men, you know. It's just that we find them a constant disappointment." Clare Short, MP

A good label

"Sick building syndrome" could become as extinct as smallpox if the Building Research Establishment's new "green label" scheme takes off. The BRE is exploring the possibility of an "environmental assessment for buildings, encompassing internal and external environments". The green label would be made available to developers who pay to have their buildings assessed at the design

stage, and the assessors would check on, for example, carbon dioxide and other noxious emissions, and the presence of CFCs in materials and air-conditioning.

Initially the scheme will apply only to offices and supermarkets, but the BRE predicts that "environmental labelling for other types of buildings are likely to follow".

Weaker sex?

As the question of whether or not contemporary titles should be allowed to pass through the female line is being debated, a new book on warrior queens and noble ladies of the Middle Ages could offer some timely enlightenment about earlier precedents.

"Women who ruled", "women who prayed", "women who toiled" and "women as healers and mystics" are explored in *A Small Sound of the Trumpet: Women in Medieval Life*, a scholarly work by Margaret Wade Labarge (Hammish Hamilton, £9.99).

She makes little distinction between queens regnant and consort, lumping the mould-breaking Matilda in with Eleanor of Aquitaine and other strong-willed royal wives, and concentrating on anecdote more than analysis. But her tales of such women as Adela of Blois (daughter of William the Conqueror and wife of Stephen of Blois), who ruled the roost while her husband frittered away his energies on crusades, are inspirational and often amusing.

Victoria McKee

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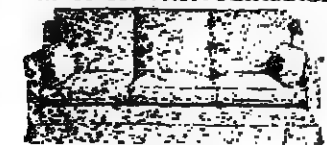
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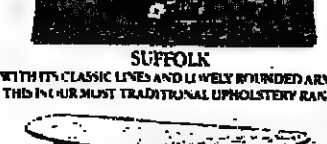
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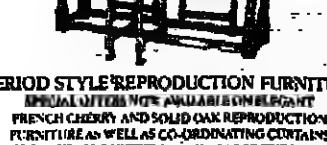
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Striving for justice in camera

Should a jury trust the evidence of a child? Alex Sutherland investigates

Imagine watching a video recording of a four-year-old girl demonstrating, with the use of dolls, how her father sexually abused her, and it is difficult to see how any jury could not be swayed by the evidence before its eyes.

But how reliable is such evidence? How suggestible are young children to being persuaded to say what one parent, pitted against another in a custody battle, wants them to say?

During the next two months these issues will be the subject of heated debate in the wake of radical proposals put forward last month by a Home Office committee on juvenile evidence. The committee, chaired by Judge Thomas Pigot, recommended that, for the first time in this country, evidence given on video by children – and other vulnerable witnesses, such as victims of rape – should be admissible in court.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children believes that more than 40,000 children are at risk in Britain from abuse or neglect, a figure which doubled between 1983 and 1987. The number at risk from specific sexual abuse has increased twelvefold; 6,700 were added to the child abuse register in 1988 alone.

Yet children rarely appear in court, not only because of the trauma involved, but also because the law does not consider children aged less than eight competent to give evidence.

The result is that genuine cases are dropped.

Last year Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, set up a pilot scheme enabling children to give evidence outside the court, via closed-circuit television. But the first trial to use the video link collapsed when the alleged victim, aged 13, remained silent in front of the camera, and the judge directed the jury to acquit the defendant.

The Pigot committee recommended that two video recordings be made – one as soon after the event as possible, and another, which would take the form of a pre-trial out-of-court hearing in the presence of the judge and both the prosecuting and defending lawyers, to be admissible as evidence at the eventual trial.

The committee said children should be interviewed under strictly controlled circumstances, in the presence of a social worker or psychiatrist, but also made provision for defence lawyers to cross-examine witnesses during the pre-trial hearing.

But the problem of children's reliability cannot be ignored. In Britain a report published last month on the accuracy of children's evidence

conducted by Professor Graham Davies, head of the psychology department at the University of Leicester, sought to show that there is no reason to suspect children will lie or fantasize about sexual abuse.

But scepticism has grown in the United States, where some states accept video recordings as evidence. Children are no longer as readily believed as they once were, partly as a result of studies which showed that witnesses, particularly younger ones, can be influenced by biased interrogators, and partly because of the vindictive use of offspring in settling divorce cases.

The battle over Hilary Foretich, the subject of a 40 Minutes documentary tomorrow night on BBC2, is a case in point. Hilary's mother, Dr Elizabeth Morgan, a prominent plastic surgeon from Washington, DC, served more than two years in jail for contempt of court charges after refusing to reveal Hilary's whereabouts. Morgan accuses Dr Eric Foretich, Hilary's father, of having sexually abused the little girl – now aged seven – ever since he was granted visiting rights when she was a few months old. He vehemently denies the charges.

Both have called in experts who reached opposing conclusions on whether abuse had taken place.

The truth may never be known. But one central factor in the case is that a video recording of Hilary, initiated by Morgan but made in the presence of a social worker and therapist, was not allowed to be shown in court.

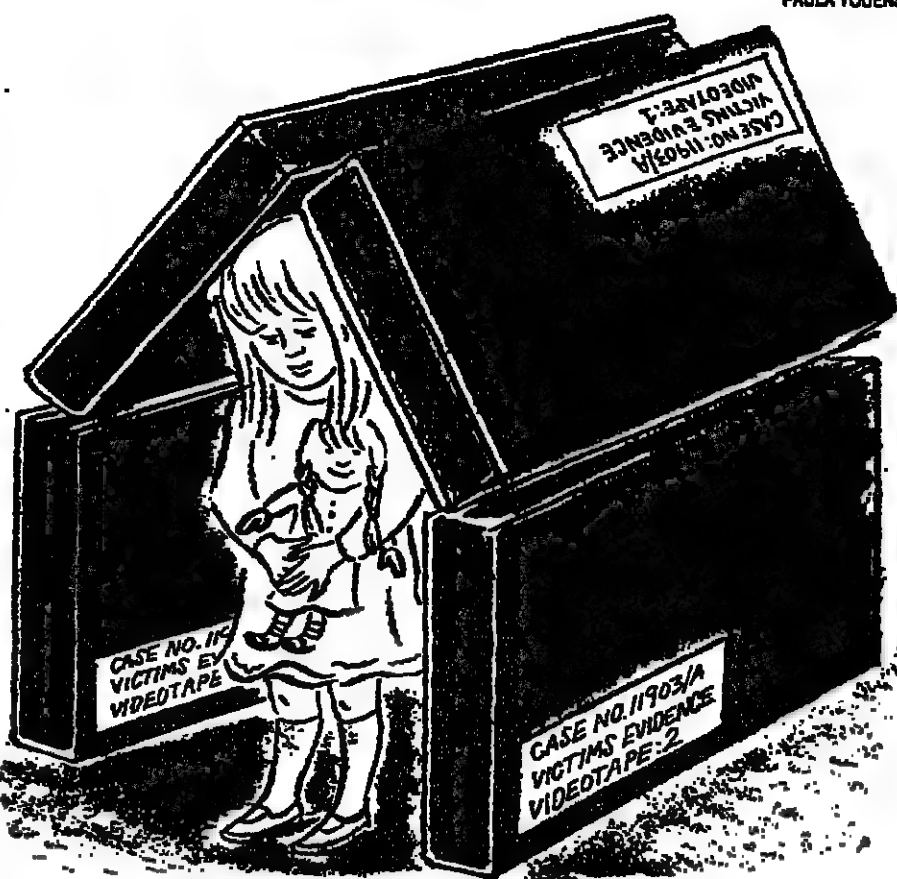
It is difficult to imagine that the recordings – which are included in tomorrow's programme, and which show Hilary demonstrating with dolls how she was abused – would not have had some bearing on the judge's verdict.

Nevertheless, Foretich claims they are the result of coaching by a woman on the brink of insanity.

John Spencer, a lecturer in criminal procedure and evidence at Cambridge University, who gave evidence to the Pigot committee, believes that the reliability factor is not the most important issue. "Even if there is a risk of evidence being unreliable, that does not mean you don't consider it at all," he says, pointing to examples of forensic evidence which are often debatable.

The NSPCC feels the Pigot reforms are long overdue, and sees the introduction of video-recorded evidence as an "absolute priority" in establishing children's rights.

Hilary's In Hiding will be shown tomorrow on BBC2 at 9.30pm.
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PAULA YOUNG

Beware the cowboy in a builder's hat

Home owners who bargain with the baddies risk more than a shoddy job

It is only in the old west that the baddies wear black hats. Most people cannot instantly tell the modern cowboy from the genuine builder, plumber or electrician. He looks and sounds the same and can also be found in the Yellow Pages.

The cowboy thrives on a simple human weakness: few of us can resist a bargain. His prices are lower because, he says, he does not bother with VAT or membership of a trade association. Nor does he need training: it is legal for anyone with a bag of tools to describe himself as an electrician, plumber or builder.

The problems arise when his skills fall short of his claims, and sometimes the results can be tragic.

This was demonstrated by the case of Nicholas French, who died as a result of a wiring error. The electrician had been called back to the house twice because pipework, radiators and the metal sink were "live", but he failed to notice that the circuit-breaker was faulty and the water pipes were not earthed properly.

This was not a simple case of an unwary householder employing a cowboy. This electrician, who was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to nine months in prison, suspended for two years, was subcontracted by the central heating installer.

According to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), it is important, when signing contracts, that householders check whether subcontractors are to be used, and who is liable if things go wrong.

What else can you do to protect yourself against the unscrupulous or incompetent workman? John Corfield, of the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, says: "We advise people not to accept the first quote, but to shop around. Ask neighbours and friends or the contractor for a recommendation. Find out if he is a member of a trade association. It can make it easier to get redress if things go wrong."

"If he is not a member, and the value of the work involved is less than £500, you can go to a small claims court, which is much less formal than other courts. Above £500 you have to go through a normal county court."

Corfield welcomes the growing trend for trade associations to offer guarantees that the job will be finished, even if the original contractor goes bust. Central heating is covered by one such free scheme, offered by the 1,200 members of the Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association. It also provides the free services of another contractor should the first fail to honour his or her obligations. However, the scheme does not cover errors by subcontracted workers, such as electricians.

In the risk-prone building

industry, guarantees can be purchased for an extra 1 per cent of the building costs, from a trust set up by the Building Employers' Confederation (BEC). It estimates that about 40,000 people a year suffer from shoddy workmanship and commit.

The scheme includes a conciliation service, an arbitration scheme if conciliation proves unsuccessful, and a guarantee that the work will be completed by another builder if the first contractor goes out of business. The minimum fee to register with the scheme is £20, and work is covered up to the value of £100,000. Enrolment would add £100 to the cost of a £10,000 extension.

Details of builders which run such schemes can be obtained by phoning the trust on 0622 683791.

The Federation of Master Builders (FMB) has a similar scheme in which, for an extra 1 per cent of the costs, work up to the value of £150,000 can be covered. The guarantee is for two years, although cover extends up to five years in the event of big structural defects. The BEC and FMB warranties also cover errors and omissions by subcontracted workers.

The National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation and Contracting (NICEIC) has strict rules about electricians using its initials after their names. It is not a trade association but a public watchdog. Its inspectors check the work of those enrolled in the scheme at least once a year, and will help resolve disputes.

John Stocking, technical director of the NICEIC, says most public authorities and big employers now use enrolled electricians. "The exceptions are the speculative house-builders, who tend to look at the cheapest possible price. They will try to save £50 on wiring a £50,000 house."

"But another cowboy in this business is the DIY householder. Some of the most dangerous work of all emanates from that area, and while the public are able to buy the electrical bits from most DIY stores, there is no way of stopping it."

The Office of Fair Trading has produced a model contract which could be used as a basis for agreement between householders and tradesmen. It has been sent to trade associations and consumer protection bodies.

Meanwhile, unhappy customers whose find their complaints are falling on deaf ears should contact their local trading standards (or consumer protection) officer and/or the contractor's trade association.

Free copies of the OFT home improvements booklet can be obtained from OFT Publishing, Room 306, Field House, Brecons Building, London EC4A 1PR.

Ann Kent

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INFORMATION for FEBRUARY

THURSDAY

1 Dance: The Ballet du Nord from France with first performance of *Plaf and Les mots d'amour*. Demargue, Northampton (to 3rd). Opera: New production of *Prince Igor*, Royal Opera House, London.
Rock: Eric Clapton at Royal Albert Hall, London (also 3.4.5.8.9.10). Simply Red at the London Arena.
Theatre: David Hare's new play *Reveries*, with Barbara Leigh-Hunt. National Theatre (Cottesloe), London (opens Feb 8).

FRIDAY

2 Jazz: Yank Lawson at Pizza Express, London (and tomorrow).
Events: Needles and Pins exhibition of home crafts. Kensington Town Hall, London (to 4th).
Cinema: *War North*: Family drama written and directed by Sam Shepard. Cannon Tottenham Court Rd.

SATURDAY

3 Sport: Basketball: Coca-Cola National, quarter-finals (and tomorrow); Fencing: Leon Paul Cup, men's foil international. De Beaumont Centre, London (and tomorrow).
Football: FA Trophy, second round; Rugby Union: France v England, Paris; Ireland v Scotland, Dublin; France B v England B, Paris.
Event: Jorvik Viking Festival. Various venues around York (to 24th).
Rock: Bob Dylan at Hammersmith Odeon (to 8th); Tanita Tikaram at the Hexagon, Reading; The Alarm at the Newport Centre, Gwent.

SUNDAY

4 Concert: Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the LSO in Mahler with Fischer-Dieskau. Barbican Centre, London.
Jazz: Art Farmer (right) at Leadmill, Sheffield.
Sport: Snooker: B & H Masters, Wembley Conference Centre. Racing: Wessal Chase Champion Hurdle, Leopardstown.
Theatre: The Alarm at St David's Hall, Cardiff; Tanita Tikaram at the Apollo, Oxford.

MONDAY

5 Theatre: English Shakespeare Company's production of *The Comedy of Errors* opens at the Theatre Royal, Bath (to 10th).
Dance: Karin Vykone from Belgium opens a week's programme at the ICA, London.
News: The BBC takes over the generation of the time "pipe" from Greenwich Observatory at noon.
Opera: *Travelling Opera's* production of *The Barber of Seville*, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford.
Rock: The Alarm at St David's Hall, Cardiff; Tanita Tikaram at the Apollo, Oxford.

TUESDAY

6 Dance: Northern Ballet Theatre with Christopher Gable's *Giselle*. City Hall, Sheffield for one week, then touring.
Opera: *Travelling Opera's* production of *La Bohème*, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford.
Rock: The Alarm at Exeter University. Event: Gun salutes to mark Accession Day, Hyde Park, London, at noon and the Tower of London at 1pm.
Theatre: World premiere of Anthony Burgess's *A Clockwork Orange*. Barbican Theatre, London.

WEDNESDAY

7 Concert: Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts the RPO in Strauss and Mahler. Festival Hall, London.
Galleries: Joseph Wright of Derby (1734-1797). Tate Gallery, London (to Mar 9).
Event: Scottish Boat, Caravan, Camping and Leisure Show. SECC, Glasgow (to 11th).

8 Theatre: Phyllida Lloyd's directorial debut with the Royal Exchange Theatre with *The Winter's Tale*. (To Mar 17). Premiere of Alice Walker's *Meridian*. Contact, Manchester.
Event: *Crash's Dog Show*. Earls Court, Exhibition Centre, London (to 11th).
Sport: Squash: Irish Open, Dublin (to 11th).
Cinema: *Family Business*: A Sidney Lumet comedy-drama. Odeon Leicester Square.

9 Theatre: Sean O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock* at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh (to Mar 3).
Event: *Crash's Dog Show*. Earls Court, Exhibition Centre, London (to 11th).
Sport: Squash: Irish Open, Dublin (to 11th).
Cinema: *Family Business*: A Sidney Lumet comedy-drama. Odeon Leicester Square.

10 Sport: Rugby League: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, second round; Ice Skating: Skate Electric British short track speed championships, Humberdale (and tomorrow); Football: FA Vase, fifth round; Racing: Tote Gold Trophy, Newbury; Rugby Union: Pilkington Cup, fourth round.
Jazz: Fayez Virji begins a tour at South Holland Centre, Spalding.
Opera: *Crash's Dog Show*. Earls Court, Exhibition Centre, London (to 11th).
Rock: The Alarm at the Corn Exchange, Cambridge; Van Morrison at the Empire, Liverpool; Tanita Tikaram at SECC, Glasgow.

11 Concert: The Medical String Quartet with John Bingham, piano, perform Faure, Elgar and Wagner. Wigmore Hall, London.
Jazz: Mike Gibbs Band at the Half Moon Putney, London.
Rock: Van Morrison (right) at the Apollo, Manchester; Giant Sand at Burberies, Birmingham.

12 Opera: Revival of *Don Pasquale*, Royal Opera House, London.
**Travelling Opera's production of *La Bohème*, Festival Theatre, Malvern.
Rock: Newcastle; Barry Manilow at the Apollo, Manchester; Giant Sand at Burberies, Birmingham.**

13 Opera: Scottish Opera's new production of *La forza del destino*. Theatre Royal, Glasgow.
Rock: Van Morrison (right) at the Apollo, Manchester; Giant Sand at Burberies, Birmingham.

14 Sport: Boxing: European Super Featherweight Title, Daniel Londonas v Mark Reefer, International Centre, Brentwood; Football: Littlewoods Cup, semi-finals, first leg.
Rock: Tanita Tikaram (right) at the Apollo, Manchester; The Alarm at UEA, Norwich.

15 Sport: Rackets: World Doubles Championship, Queen's Club, London (to 18th).
Rock: Ian Hunter/Mick Ronson at the Octagon, Sheffield; The Quireboys at Buckley Thiol.

16 Cinema: *Harlem Nights*: Eddie Murphy co-stars with Richard Pryor. Cannon Haymarket.
Sport: Rugby League: British Coal Under 21 International: Great Britain v France, Doncaster.
Rock: Barry Manilow (right) at NEC, Birmingham (also tomorrow).

17 Sport: Racing: Vincent O'Brien Gold Cup, Leopardstown; Football: FA Cup, fifth round; Rugby Union: England v Wales, Twickenham; Scotland v France, Edinburgh.
Rock: Lloyd Cole at Usher Hall, Edinburgh; K. d. lang and the reclines, Town and Country, London (also tomorrow).

18 Sport: Boxing: World Cup competition, Havana, Cuba (to 24th); Football: FA Sunday Cup, fifth round; Snooker: British Open, 64 to 32, Derby.
Rock: Dionne Warwick at NEC, Birmingham.

19 Sport: Squash: Welsh Open, Cardiff (to 25th).
Rock: John Cale (right) at Royal Festival Hall, London.
Jazz: Eberhard Weber at St George's, Bristol.
Theatre: Michael Frayn's translation of the Soviet play *Exchange*. Vaudeville Theatre, London (opens Feb 22).

20 Concert: Christopher Seed, piano, performs at St John's, Smith Square, London.
Sport: Boxing: WBC International Championship, Hugo Cort v Chris Eubank, Basildon.
Rock: The Stranglers (right) at Poole Arts Centre.

21 Dance: Beppe Blankert offers a new work at the Place, London (and tomorrow).
Opera: English National Opera's revival of *The Mikado*, Coliseum, London.
Rock: The Stranglers at Torbay Leisure Centre; Lloyd Cole at the Apollo, Manchester; The Cramps at Sarrowlands, Glasgow.

22 Rock: Van Morrison at NEC, Birmingham.
Tanita Tikaram at Hammersmith Odeon, London (also tomorrow).
Galleries: David Mach: A sculptural installation built from unwanted magazines. Tramway, Glasgow (to Apr 29).

23 Concert: Jorge Mester conducts the RPO and Paul Toller in Elgar's Cello Concerto. Barbican Centre, London.
Cinema: *Blaze*: Paul Newman (right) as a Louisiana governor who has a relationship with a stripper. Warner West End.

24 Sport: Rugby Union: Pilkington Cup, fifth round; Welsh Cup, sixth round; Football: FA Cup, fifth round, third round.
Rock: The Stranglers at Brixton Academy; The Cramps at the Hummingbird, Birmingham.
Event: *Kaiser Forest* Husky Dog Rally, Kielder Forest, Northumberland (and tomorrow).

25 Concert: The Opus 20 String Ensemble perform Ruggles, Stravinsky and Prokofiev. Purcell Room, London.
Rock: Dionne Warwick (right) at the Apollo, Manchester; Lloyd Cole at the Royal Centre, Nottingham; The Cramps at the Studio, Bristol.

26 Rock: The Stranglers at Crawley Leisure Centre.
Dance: Royal Ballet opens for one week with *La Bayadère* and *The Prince of the Pagodas*. Hippodrome, Birmingham.

27 Event: Shrovetide Skipping Festival. Scarborough, North Yorkshire; Spring Stampex. Exhibition, Royal Horticultural Halls, London (to Mar 4).
Galleries: Icelandic Art. Concourse Gallery, Barbican, London (to Apr 8).
Theatre: Jerry Hall and Shaun Cassidy co-star in *Bus Stop*. Lyric Theatre, London.
Rock: Lloyd Cole at Hammersmith Odeon, London (also tomorrow).

28 Concert: The Moscow Soloists perform Bach, Schenker and Schnittke. Barbican Centre, London.
Sport: Football: Littlewoods Cup, semi-finals, second leg.
Rock: UB40 (right) at NEC Birmingham (also Mar 3).
Jazz: Steve Lacy Sextet begin tour at the Lyric, Elizabeth Hall, London.

MILESTONES



American actor Burt Reynolds and British actress Mary Quant celebrate their birthdays this week.

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Terry Jones (48); Lisa-Marie Presley (22); Muriel Spark (72)
- 2 Les Dawson (57); Sir Norman Fowler (52); Val Doonican (62); Doris Speed (78); Frank Vaughan (82); Jerry Kenjo (65)
- 3 Sir Robert Hesketh (67); Dr Hugh Scudlark (68); Charles Rampling (44); Claudio Arnu (57); Zsa Zsa Gabor (71); Gordon (58); Freddie Trueman (58)
- 4 Dora Bryan (68); Gareth Hunt (47); Alan Lancaster (41)
- 5 Oslan Ellis (52); Lady Howe (58); John Williams (58)
- 6 Mia Farrow (45); Sandy Lyle (32); Janet Suzman (61)
- 7 Robert Flack (52); Mark Spitz (40); Robert Wagner (60)
- 8 Patrick Leigh Fermor (75); Mary Queen (50); Burt Reynolds (54)
- 9 Steve Hackett (40); Anthony Howard (56); Franco Zeffirelli (67)
- 10 Liam Brady (34); Kim Novak (57); Oliver Reed (52)
- 11 Kevin Keegan (39); Lita Stetter (39)
- 12 Frank Dunlop (63); Paddy McLintock (57); Jane Seymour (38)
- 13 John McEnroe (31); Ian Lavender (44); Sir Gerald Evans (60)
- 14 Yassir Arafat (61); Alan Bates (50); Barry Humphries (58); Nicholas Ridley (61)
- 15 Len Deighton (61); Yoko Ono (56); Ned Sherrin (59); John Travolta (36)
- 16 Prince Andrew (30); Hans Mandelkern (28)
- 17 Jimmy Greaves (50); Sidney Poitier (63); Robert Altman (65)
- 18 Lily Cooper (53); Nina Simone (55); Peter McKerr (60)
- 19 Bruce Forsyth (62); Neil Laude (41); Sheila Hancock (57)
- 20 Peter Fonda (51)
- 21 Dennis Waterman (42); Derek Randall (39)
- 22 Tom Courtenay (53); George Harrison (47); Elkie Brooks (45)
- 23 Johnny Cash (56); Sandie Shaw (43)
- 24 Rocky Woodcock (48); Lawrence Durrell (78); Joanna Woodward (40)
- 25 Peter Aliss (59); Barry Fantoni (50)

ANNIVERSARIES



Fifty years ago this month, the new five-year-old Dala Llama was introduced on February 22 in 1940.

- 2 The Germans announce a submarine blockade of the British Isles (1915)
- 9 In the USA, Joseph McCarthy launches the anti-communist crusade (1950)
- 15 The Soviet Union and China sign a 30-year alliance (1950)
- 18 A new planet beyond Neptune is discovered by Clyde Tombaugh (US) and is named Pluto (1930); The National American Women's Suffrage Association is formed (1890)
- 19 In Paris, the Marquis de Favras is hanged for his involvement with plots to help the king escape and to kill Lafayette and Barry (1790)
- 20 Adolf Hitler orders U-boats to sink neutral ships (1940)
- 22 The new five-year-old Dala Llama is introduced in Tibet (1940)

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2090

ACROSS

- German industrial area (4)
- Sordid (5)
- Coroner's inquiry (7)
- Delight (5)
- Malaysian jungle (4)
- Litter weasel (4)
- Fox cub (3)
- Religious tribulation (2,3,3,3)
- Pole, perch (3)
- Pillage (4)
- First analytic psychologist (4)
- Banter (5)
- Gaping (7)
- Fence steps (5)
- Main plant axis (4)

DOWN

- Insist upon (7)
- Attention (4)
- Ultimate (8)
- Russian peasant (5)
- Cheat (4)
- Blue-barred evergreen (7)
- Word superfluous (9)
- Intolerable amount (8)
- Sweet Asian spirit (6)
- Deposited salt (7)
- US inscription (5)
- Senile (4)
- Taunt (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 2089

ACROSS: 1 Delinquency, 9 Ravio, 10 Vinyl, 11 Toy, 13 Bash, 16 June, 17 Opague, 18 Inge, 20 Tram, 21 Umbria, 22 Glad, 23 Tus, 25 Moa, 28 Arise, 29 Verigo, 30 Serendipity

DOWN: 2 Elves, 3 Iron, 4 Quilt, 5 Envy, 6 Conquer, 7 Broddingnag, 8 Alderman, 12 Ovide, 14 Hec, 15 Daimyo, 19 Granite, 20 Tar, 24 Heist, 25 Mers, 26 Auld, 27 Croc

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

LEPORINE
 (a) Concerned with hares or rabbits and other Lepus species, rabbit, from the Latin *lepus*, leporis a hare: "The able psychiatrist who studies my case - and whom by now Dr Humber has pegged, I trust, into a state of leporine fascination."

SEIOJI
 (c) A screen of paper covering a wooden framework, forming a wall or sliding partition in Japanese homes, derived from the Japanese word *seiji* to separate, *ji* a place. "He swung himself over the sill and dropped into her room, closing the seiji behind him." Presumably with chocolate.

KOORA
 (d) The fairy penguin, or little (blue) penguin, *Endiadrus minor*, smallest of all the penguins, the Maori name for it.

CUTHBERT
 (a) A government employee or officer, a soldier, a service, from the 1917 music-hall song "Cuthbert, Clarence and Cuthbert."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

In this position from the game White (White), Adamski (Black), Budapest 1989, Black to play wins. The solution appears in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1...Rxc3 2...Ox3 Ne4 wins material.

DONALD SINDEN
 "makes it a Wilde success"

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 CC 24hr 01 5961 1111

THEATRES

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 CC 24hr 01 5961 1111
 CC 24hr 01 5961 1111

ME AND MY GIRL 01 5961 1111
 CC 24hr 01 5961 1111
 CC 24hr 01 5961 1111

THEATRE

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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Gillian MaxeyBob's
home
truths

Peter Waymark

Bob Symes is a genial and splendidly bewhiskered television all-rounder who can move effortlessly from enthusiastic model railways to investigating the fate of Crown Prince Rudolf at Mayerling. More recently he has added welcome ballast to *Tomorrow's World*. In *The House That Bob Built*, a film for Q.E.D. (BBC1, 9.30pm), he turns up as a super do-it-yourselfer with a bagful of tips on how to make our houses more efficient. His theme is that British house design is way behind the standards of Germany or Scandinavia. I lost count of the number of times he pointed out that such-and-such device had been common practice and/or a legal requirement in Germany for 30 (or 40 or even 60) years.



A bagful of tips: Bob Symes, outside the house that he built (BBC1, 9.30pm)

He asserts that much can be done at little expense, taking as his model a house which went up in a mere eight weeks. Whether it is providing drinking water in the bathroom or taking unpleasant smells out of the smallest room, Bob has the answer. He tells us how to cut down fuel bills and save water. Some of his wrinkles are obvious when you think about them, such as having fewer windows on the cold side of the house or setting power points at shoulder level to save people bending down. Triple glazing may sound claustrophobic, but what is good enough for the Germans should be good enough for us, particularly with the coming of a single European market. For a grand finale he demonstrates how he can sit on a railway platform several miles away and instruct the house, by remote control, to draw its curtains, switch on the lights and set the video. If Q.E.D. is science at the popular end, *Antenna* (BBC2, 8.10pm) makes few concessions. It even has scientists presenting the items, instead of using television professionals to mediate for the uninitiated. Tonight's main item is on genetic fingerprinting, and how its reputation as an important new aid in "arresting violent criminals" has been undermined by two cases in the United States. The main thrust of the argument is clear enough but I suspect that few will follow the scientific explanations that lie behind it. The same applies to a second item, on the effect of solar storms on the atmosphere, while the third offering is as much philosophical as scientific, a discourse on what western scientists might learn from the ideas of Islam.

BBC

8.30 Breakfast News and Commonwealth Games. Steve Pinder introduces coverage of the overnight events, including Harry Carpenter with the latest on the games. Plus regular news headlines, business and financial reports, regional news, weather and travel information.

9.20 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.

10.00 News and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (r).

10.25 Children's BBC, presented by Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays. Mark Sandell tells the tale of *King Canute* 10.30 Bookclub (r) 10.55 Five to Eleven. Oscar James with a reading.

11.00 News and weather followed by *Commonwealth Games*. Helen Rolison introduces further coverage of the seventh day of the Games, including the latest boxing results. With news and regional news at 12.05.

1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Houghton. Weather.

1.20 *Mad About You*. At the last minute Mrs Mangel's wedding ceremony is thrown into jeopardy. Jim has another attempt at healing the rift with Beverly, and Mike tries to find out what really happened to Jessie. (Comedy)

1.50 *Going for Gold*. Henry Kelly hosts another round of the European Nations' Cup. The latest minute Mrs Mangel's wedding ceremony is thrown into jeopardy. Jim has another attempt at healing the rift with Beverly, and Mike tries to find out what really happened to Jessie. (Comedy)

2.00 *Police*. Magazine series for the older viewer presented by David Jacobs. This week's edition includes Sheila MacLennan reporting from the side-splashes of Austria on holidays aimed at the elderly, and the Jelly Ruffs, formerly the Poly Pops, proving that you are never too old to sing and dance. In addition, David Jacobs asks Noel Josephides from the Association of Independent Tour Operators why single travellers have to pay more.

3.40 *Police*. Magazine series for the older viewer presented by David Jacobs. This week's edition includes Sheila MacLennan reporting from the side-splashes of Austria on holidays aimed at the elderly, and the Jelly Ruffs, formerly the Poly Pops, proving that you are never too old to sing and dance. In addition, David Jacobs asks Noel Josephides from the Association of Independent Tour Operators why single travellers have to pay more.

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BBC 2

6.00 TV-am begins with News and Good Morning Britain, presented by Richard Kaye and from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. Includes the latest on the games. Plus regular news headlines, business and financial reports, regional news, weather and travel information.

9.25 Lucky Ladders. Word association game show 9.55 *Thames News* and weather.

10.00 The Time... The Place... Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject.

10.40 The Morning. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Special features today include agony aunt Denise Robertson helping to solve your personal problems, details of voluntary organizations that need help, and microwave recipes. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.05 followed by national weather.

12.10 *Allo! Allo!*. For the young 12.30 Home and Away. Sparks fly when Monica Jackson and her boyfriend are caught in a car crash.

1.00 News at One with John Suchet. Weather 1.30 *Thames News* and weather 1.55 *Thames News* and weather 2.20 *Thames News* and weather 2.45 *Thames News* and weather 3.10 *Thames News* and weather 3.35 *Thames News* and weather 3.55 *Thames News* and weather 4.10 *Thames News* and weather 4.35 *Thames News* and weather 4.55 *Thames News* and weather 5.10 *Thames News* and weather 5.35 *Thames News* and weather 5.55 *Thames News* and weather 6.10 *Thames News* and weather 6.35 *Thames News* and weather 6.55 *Thames News* and weather 7.10 *Thames News* and weather 7.35 *Thames News* and weather 7.55 *Thames News* and weather 8.10 *Thames News* and weather 8.35 *Thames News* and weather 8.55 *Thames News* and weather 9.10 *Thames News* and weather 9.35 *Thames News* and weather 9.55 *Thames News* and weather 10.10 *Thames News* and weather 10.35 *Thames News* and weather 10.55 *Thames News* and weather 11.10 *Thames News* and weather 11.35 *Thames News* and weather 11.55 *Thames News* and weather 12.10 *Thames News* and 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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

IPL shares drop 15p
group slips into red

Market specialist fund...
IPL shares dropped 15p to 110p, leaving the group in the red for the first time since its flotation in 1987.

Roskel £1.8m
buys Access

Roskel, the online...
Roskel has bought Access, a software company, for £1.8m.

ansom dividend up

ansom's dividend...
ansom has increased its dividend by 10% to 1.5p.

erest bill hits Lowe

erest bill hits Lowe...
Lowe's interest bill has increased due to rising rates.

e share perks
y investors

e share perks...
y investors are attracted by the perks of share ownership.

Beazer loses £29m after Australian firm collapses

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

Beazer, the West Country-based housebuilding and construction group, has lost £29 million on an Australian investment.

The collapse of Girvan Corp, the Australian construction group where receivers were appointed yesterday, will mean a £29 million write-off in the Beazer interim results, due in March. It will be treated as an extraordinary charge. Beazer has a 14.5 per cent stake in Girvan, a Sydney-based developer and contractor which is the latest in a string of Australian companies to run into financial problems because of heavy debts, high interest rates and a slowdown in the economy.

Girvan, which reported profits of just £34 million (£1.83 million) last year, against £36 million previously, joined the Australian market through a reverse takeover engineered by Mr Paul Beazer, a Sydney property developer, in September 1987, only weeks before the global stock market crash.

Three months later, with its shares languishing at 40p, Beazer moved in to take a 17.5 per cent stake, which has been subsequently diluted. But when Girvan's board asked the Australian

Stock Exchange to suspend trading in its shares yesterday, they were changing hands at just 3.5 cents.

It was only the second time Beazer had backed a man it admired, a spokesman said. "The other one was Mr Roger Shute, at BM Group, which has been a big success." The group, where Mr Brian Beazer is chairman and chief executive, said its mainstream Australian interests continued to thrive.

News of the provision clipped 7p off the Beazer price at 157p. The shares have been out of favour since the group launched its \$1.7 billion bid for Koppers two years ago. However they have come up from 125p recently on reported buying from the US.

The cost of buying Koppers has given rise to concern among some analysts over Beazer's level of debt, which was £1.3 billion at the end of last June, equivalent to 103 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Profit forecasts for Beazer, which reported pretax profits of £142.5 million for the full year ended June 30, range from £100 million to £125 million for this year.

The company said it would take the £29 million charge as a "full provision for its investment" in Girvan.



Brian Beazer: his company backed a man it admired

Tompkins profits warning

By Colin Campbell

Rush & Tompkins, property developer and contractor, has issued a warning that the profits outlook in its year to end-March depends on negotiations over certain joint venture developments now nearing completion.

For the six months to September 30 Mr Nigel Dunnett, managing director, reported pre-tax profits of £3.56 million against £3.32 million. Turnover was £138.5 million (£110.2 million) and the interim stays at 4p.

Mr Dunnett said the investment property climate was not rosy because of uncertainty over interest rates, and that if current talks were not concluded before the year end, second half results could be "lousy".

He added that despite the present climate the group would not be rushed into selling assets at a discount.

The first half results reflect the sale of four developments. There was strong growth in projects underway in Scotland and the north of England, and further progress was made in the Bahamas, but market conditions in the United States remain difficult.

The group is investigating opportunities in Europe and has won work for a major office park development in Hamburg. Also, planning permission for an office block in Lisbon has recently been granted.

Hochtief of West Germany holds an effective 27 per cent stake in Tompkins, and the German group is to undertake infrastructure projects in the UK. Singapore Land holds a further 15 per cent stake in Tompkins. The shares rose 2p to 247p. *Times, page 24*

Next's final large disposal as Germans buy Biba for £47m

By Gillian Bowditch

Next, the high street fashion group, has sold Biba, its German retail chain, to a group of European investors for £47.6 million.

It is the last major disposal Next intends to make under the strategy of returning to its core British fashion retailing business.

Mr David Jones, Next's chief executive, said he was delighted with the sale and the price achieved. The money raised will go towards reducing borrowings and should bring them down to £160 million and gearing down to 40 per cent.

Biba has been bought by Hapen Portfolio Company, a secretive group of German private investors using a Swiss bank. The £47.6 million purchase price includes £2.9 million of inter-company debt owed to Next.

Biba, which operates 60

ladies fashion shops, has £3.1 million of assets. In the year to January, 1989, Biba made £7.9 million profits.

Mr Jones said Biba had been up for sale for three months but that the final negotiations were completed within a fortnight.

Next acquired Biba when it bought Combined English



David Jones: price delight

Stores for £325 million after outbidding Mr Gerald Ratner, the jeweller, in 1987. CES had purchased the chain three years earlier.

Next intended Biba to be the launch pad for its expansion into Europe.

But after the company gave warning in December, 1988, that profits would fall significantly — and Mr George Davies, then chief executive, was ousted in a boardroom coup — the group decided to sell off non-core businesses.

Mr Jones said yesterday that Next Interiors was performing well and would stay within the group — but with more of the sales being made through Next Directory, the mail order business. The latest Directory has been out for two weeks and Mr Jones said the response so far had been "very positive".

Next shares rose 1p to 91p.

Fraud blow for Microgen

By Jeremy Andrews

An £839,000 fraud added insult to the injury of 28 per cent worse pre-tax profits — at £7.2 million — for Microgen in the year ending October.

The computer services company said it appeared to have been "subject to a deliberate and systematic fraud".

The large provision was made as an extraordinary item in the results, after an investigation by the auditors. The circumstances are being investigated by police.

Mr Douglas Lee, a director, said the fraud problem is over because the source of the problem has been stopped. The company hopes some of the money will be recovered. Mr Patrick Barbour, chair-

man, said the main cause of the profits collapse was that the group had outgrown its management structure.

"We should have anticipated much earlier that we needed additional and different management skills to run the enlarged business effectively."

Microgen was hit by £1.5 million worth of re-organization costs in the period.

Imagen, its laser printing business, made a substantial loss of £400,000, and is due to be sold in the next few weeks.

Mr Barbour said the 14 per cent increase in group turnover to £45.07 million demonstrated the fundamental strength of Microgen, helped

by a high proportion of trade being repeat business. A final dividend of 4.5p brings the total to 6.7p, compared with 6.5p last year. However, earnings per share fell from 17p to 11.1p.

Microgen shares fell 4p to 121p on the results.

Mr Jerry Crowley, analyst at Laurence Prust, Microgen's own broker, said: "What with one thing and another, the company is undoubtedly feeling punch-drunk."

He is, nevertheless, keeping his forecast for profits this year at £9 million.

This implies earnings per share of 14.75p and means the stock could yield 7.2 per cent at the current price.

Amoco in sales talks with Elf

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Negotiations have started for the sale of Amoco's British downstream activities, including 250 petrol stations, to Elf Aquitaine of France.

No value has yet been placed on the deal, but it would be substantial, given that it would include Amoco's 70 per cent stake in a Milford Haven refinery in South Wales where Murco is its partner. Five product terminals and a pipeline would also form part of the deal.

It would suit the strategies of both companies to clinch the deal. Chicago-based Amoco has for some time been pursuing a policy of divestment of downstream activities in all its overseas operations and the British involvement has been the last to survive. Its sale has long been expected.

The 250 petrol stations account for a market share of about 2 per cent, which Amoco sees as too small in a sector dominated by a few big players. Amoco has decided to stay in the downstream business in the United States.

Elf would, however, finish up with 700 petrol outlets and a market share of at least 14 per cent.

Moreover, Elf is keen to expand its activities in refining and petrol sales and is believed to be looking at acquisition prospects elsewhere. It also has substantial North Sea interests, its four main activities being oil and gas production, refining and marketing, chemicals and health, and hygiene products.

Elf has a 25 per cent stake in Enterprise Oil, of Britain, but has countered speculation that it might bid for the rest by saying that the holding is simply a "financial" one.

Within the British operation of Amoco — a leading gas producer and rated number four in North Sea exploration and production — hydrocarbon production will remain its biggest business, with further expansion being planned.

Amoco would also retain its chemical production activities and two polypropylene factories at Dundee, Tayside, and Consett, County Durham.

Elf is estimating its 1989 turnover at Fr145 billion (£15.1 billion), against Fr126.1 billion. Estimated profits were up 40 per cent, but mainly because of an exceptional item amounting to Fr3 billion, the net return should be about the same as that for the previous year.

COMMENT

Professor Smith does it the Weinstock way

Professor Roland Smith may not be entirely flattered by the comparison, but in a slow but steady string of deals, he appears to be doing for British Aerospace what Lord Weinstock has done for GEC. The market perception of GEC has been transformed by a series of alliances, some, it must be said, forged under pressure from disgruntled City institutions. Nevertheless, joint ventures with German, North American and French companies have placed the British group much more firmly on to an international plane and transformed its prospects.

Bae's confirmation that it will create the largest missile business in Europe through a merger of its own operations with those of the French Thomson-CSF is another piece of the jigsaw dropping into place. On one level, this can be viewed as a safety-first move — the defence business has been shrinking anyway, and has certainly become tougher even before the apparent end of the cold war in Europe. But there is no doubt that the combined business will enjoy economies in research and development, marketing and eventually, manufacturing too. It will certainly have the clout to go for business head-to-head with the biggest of the US competitors. These Pentagon suppliers are likely to become more aggressive bidders overseas if President Bush continues to apply the so-called "peace bonus" outside his defence budgets.

Viewed from the other side of the Channel, the link will bring Thomson into a market from which it has been largely excluded. Thomson fluffed its

chances to win Ferranti's European Fighter Aircraft contract when it withdrew from the bidding for the stricken group earlier this month. But like Professor Smith, Thomson's chairman Alain Gomez is busy forging international links and late last year purchased the defence operations of the Dutch giant Philips. Together the two men look set to build a heavyweight European rival to the other large-scale defence operation now coagulating around GEC and Siemens.

Bae has other hopes in Europe. Professor Smith is an unashamed admirer of Edzard Reuter, who heads West Germany's Daimler-Benz. Bae's partner in a number of joint ventures. Indeed Bae shares were on the move yesterday, fired by thoughts that Daimler might soon cement those relationships with a cross-shareholding, purchased in Germanic style at the £8.50-per-share asset value rather than the 542p market price.

Bae's courtship with Daimler may take some time to reach fruition. The relationship is complicated by Rover's collaboration with Honda. But in the long run, the two would make a powerful combination.

Bae has already moved a long way from the days when its lifeblood flowed from Whitehall in the shape of MoD contracts. Defence already accounts for less than half of sales. Motors and property have appeared in the portfolio and civil aircraft have assumed much greater significance. But if Bae's chairman has his way there is much more reshaping to come.

Boardroom gloom deepens

The squeeze on high street sales has fed through to business confidence with a vengeance. The CBI's pre-Budget quarterly survey reveals the sharpest drop in confidence among manufacturers since 1980 and the worst expectations about future investment — another confidence measure — since 1982. The CBI has not held back on these comparisons with the great early eighties slump. It wants to impress on a new Chancellor that the nasty medicine has had the desired effect and that Mr Major ought to switch his prescription to a gentle reviving tonic.

The good news to back this claim is that exports are much rosier — in contrast to the home market. The bad news, which will ring more bells at the Treasury, is that more firms expect unit costs to rise over the next four months than at any time since early 1982. Large firms do not seem so worried about this as smaller companies, which accept rather than set pay rises, but this does not appear to accord with the CBI call for Government to leave pay to professionals.

The danger with the squeeze, as with Nigel Lawson's loosening of the reins after the 1987 market crash, is that it will

last too long, just to make absolutely sure. If Mr Major really intends to squeeze pay pressure out of the economy through credit and fiscal policy, he has a long way to go and the business will face more pain. He must, however, be tempted to do so. Getting the inflation figure right down as early as possible is crucial to the Government's electoral strategy. Action on domestic demand does not seem sufficient to achieve this quickly.

In the run-up to the Budget, it is no surprise that industry is piling on the agony. The CBI wants further supposed supply side aids, such as investment incentives through the tax system. But Mr Major will not be eager to make a U-turn on one his predecessor's best achievements — rationalization of the tax system.

Thus far, confidence has suffered more than sales and output — the opposite of that earlier recession. Should industry's mental gloom prove more than seasonal, then the outlook for profits of domestically oriented companies, downgraded in the City in the autumn, will have to be reassessed again and share prices could share the pains of the economy.

Return to company of Woolfs

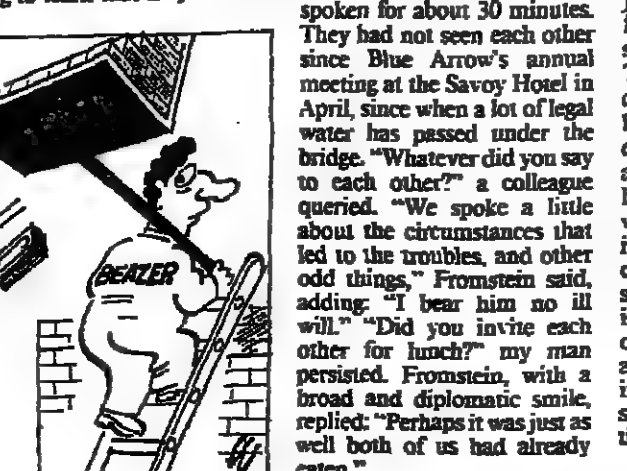
Freda Woolf, head of UK equity sales to Europe at Hoare Govett, the broker, will this evening be hanging up her pin-striped suit — and saying a final farewell to her near-six-figure package of salary and perks. Woolf, aged 35, with Hoares for 18 months, and a stockbroker — previously with Phillips & Drew, Leung & Cruickshank, and then Pru-Bache — for nine years in total, has decided to sacrifice it all so that she can spend more time with her son, Matthew, aged two. She explained: "I want to spend more time with my young family — and I want a chance to reconsider my career." Debating the difficulties that career women now face, she added: "I want to find a better balance between the demands of a family and the demands of a career, and to do that I have decided to jump completely away from a structured career. It doesn't allow enough flexibility. There are no role models for women of our generation — we are the front line and have to forge a path for ourselves. On the one hand, you don't want to ruin your children during their developmental years; but on the other, you don't want to spend the rest of your life carrying Sainsbury bags to and fro." Woolf, whose husband Clifford is a neuro-biologist at University College London, is now considering a move into consultancy work. "I'm open to suggestions," she concluded.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Scandinavian swap

Recruitment at UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, continues apace — with four London-based salesmen due to join the firm from rival Pru-Bache in a month's time. Led by Ola Carlén, the team of four — three Swedes and one Italian — also comprises Anders Lindell, Jan Larsson and Francesco Mancarda. Nick Bamister, who is head of the firm's international sales, said: "Their main client base is Scandinavian, but they will expand on that and they will supplement and strengthen our existing team — selling European equities to continental European institutions. Their recruitment emphasizes the fact that our European equities side is growing. We believe that the European client base will become more important in terms of the distribution of equity products."

Lunch was off Given the bad corporate blood between Tony Berry, the former chairman of Blue Arrow, and Mitchell Fromstein, the current chairman, it is surprising to learn that they still talk to each other. But Fromstein, in London this week for Blue Arrow's year-end results, confessed that he and Berry "had bumped into each other" just after Christmas in a shopping mall in Florida, where both have a holiday villa, and had spoken for about 30 minutes. They had not seen each other since Blue Arrow's annual meeting at the Savoy Hotel in April, since when a lot of legal water has passed under the bridge. "Whatever did you say to each other?" a colleague queried. "We spoke a little about the circumstances that led to the troubles, and other odd things," Fromstein said, adding: "I bear him no ill will." "Did you invite each other for lunch?" my man persisted. Fromstein, with a broad and diplomatic smile, replied: "Perhaps it was just as well both of us had already eaten."



Odourless orders

A tiny North Yorkshire company set up by four fathers a year ago claims to have a product that many a City slicker could well use — socks which never smell. The socks are the brainchild of David Leadley, managing director of Mohair Product Producers, which is based in the village of Wykeham, near Scarborough in Yorkshire, within the grounds of the estate of Lord Downe (a one-time non-marine broker at Lloyds). Made from mohair, from angora goats, the socks apparently absorb moisture, allow air to circulate around the feet and do not mat like wool and nylon. Established by the four men, in conjunction with two mill owners, the company has not yet finished its first year's accounts, but turnover is expected to be about £50,000, they made more than 10,000 pairs of socks last year at £4.50 a pair. Caroline Nash, a director at MPP, said: "We just wanted to diversify away from farming and produce something new and different. The socks, which we are calling Wellie Socks, work because of the special properties of mohair. I'm just about to wash a pair that my husband has owned up to wearing for a week — and there is absolutely no smell." The company, which sells the socks from a converted barn, is now being inundated with orders. Consequently, it is about to undertake a large investment programme designed to increase its production.

Carol Leonard

Your Future Sales On Screen Today

PROFESSIONAL 14

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was up at 88.9 (day's range 88.7-89.0).				
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				
Market rates for January 30				
	Rate	Close	1 month	3 months
New York	1.6785-1.6870	1.6805-1.6815	0.85-0.84P	2.6% 59P
London	1.9980-1.9990	1.9985-1.9990	0.51-0.57P	0.71-0.64P
Frankfurt	3.1776-3.1825	3.1856-3.19	11-13P	46-48P
Brussels	58.82-59.23	58.89-59.20	81-11P	88-90P
Copenhagen	10.8865-10.9000	10.8820-10.9435	21-24P	74-76P
Oslo	1.0815-1.0825	1.0820-1.0825	75-76P	79-80P
Stockholm	2.8152-2.8278	2.8244-2.8257	11-14P	44-46P
Paris	847.05-848.17	847.59-848.59	0-35c	80-165c
Madrid	162.00-162.05	162.00-162.05	25-30c	25-30c
Amsterdam	205.00-210.14	211.24-210.14	4-2P	12-8P
Geneva	10.8807-10.9348	10.9019-10.9259	3-25P	5-8P
Basel	9.8590-9.8690	9.8647-9.8690	41-42P	44-45P
Bilbao	10.2740-10.3040	10.2840-10.2912	n/a	n/a
Tokyo	241.60-242.60	242.52-242.52	11-14P	44-47P
Yokohama	241.60-242.60	242.52-242.52	11-14P	44-47P
Vancouver	2.4945-2.5071	2.5038-2.5071	1-14P	31-32P

OTHER STERLING RATES	
Argentina austral	1.0896P-3.07P
Australia dollar	2.2023-2.2025P
Bahrian dinar	0.8310-0.8310P
Brazil cruzeiro	28.2045-28.4190
Cyprus pound	0.7836-0.7836P
Dutch guilder	2.0590-2.0590P
Greece drachma	261.90-265.18
Indian rupee	13.1897-13.1897P
Israeli sheqel	1.8585-1.8585P
Kuwait dir. KD	0.4855-0.4855P
Malaysian ringgit	4.4221-4.4240P
New Zealand dollar	2.8221-2.8225P
Saudi Arabia riyal	0.2715-0.2730P
Singapore dollar	1.3357-1.3357P
South Africa rand	1.4925-1.4925P
S. Africa rand (int)	1.4925-1.4925P
S. Africa rand (port)	4.2322-4.2322P
S. Ethiopia	0.1425-0.2222P

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Greece	1,580/-1,581/-	Denmark	1,674.95-1,680.00	Italy	1246.5-1,250.00
Ireland	2,480/-1,491.15	West Germany	1,674.95-1,680.00	Belgium (Cont)	1,246.5-1,250.00
Malaysia	2,995.2-2,975	Switzerland	1,484.0-1,485.00	Hong Kong	7,810.75-7,820.00
Australia	1,307/-1,308.99	Netherlands	1,687.5-1,693.00	Portugal	107.54-147.00
New Zealand	1,193.0/-1,191.0	Spain	1,687.5-1,693.00	Saudi Arabia	108.54-109.00
Sweden	1,193.0/-1,191.0	Japan	143.73-143.83	Austria	11.73-11.75
Norway	6,477.6-6,482.5				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Exclat.

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates % Clearing Banks 15 Finance Base 15%

Discount Market Loans

Overnight High: 14% Low 14 Week fixed: 14%

Treasury Bills

Loyalty 2 mths - 14 1/4% 3 mths - 14 1/4%

Selling 2 mths - 14 1/4% 3 mths - 14 1/4%

Prime Bank Bills (Discount %) 1 mths 14%-14 1/4%

2 mths 14 1/4% 3 mths 14 1/4% 4 mths 14-14 1/4%

6 mths 14 1/4% 9 months 14 1/4% 12 mths 14-14 1/4%

Trade Bills (Discount %) 1 mths 15%

2 mths 15% 3 mths 15% 6 mths 14%

9 months 14%, Overmarket 12 months 14%

Bank Accepted Bills

1 week: 14%-14 1/4% 1 mths: 15%-14 1/4% 3 mths: 15%-14 1/4%

6 mths: 14%-15 1/4% 9 mths: 15-14 1/4% 12 mths n/a

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollars	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4
Cash 5-7 1/4				
Deutschmarks	7 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4
Pounds	7 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4
French Francs	7 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4
Italian Liras	7 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4
Yen	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4	8 1/4-8 1/4

High: \$418.00-418.50
Low: \$419.75-420.25

BUILDING SOCIETY CDS

1 m:	8.27-8.22	
6 m:	12.93	12 m: 8.50-8.45
1 m:	15-15	6 m: 15-15-15
1 m:	15-15-15	6 m: 15-15-15
1 m:	15-15-15	6 m: 15-15-15

ECGD

Paid Rate Exports Finance Firm Make-up date: Jan 1990
Scheme 1: 15.99 per cent, Scheme II & III: 16.43 per cent.
Ref. Reference rate Dec. 30, 1990 to Jan. 31, 1990.
Scheme IV & V: 15.199 per cent.

GOLD COINS (Per coin, ex VAT)

1 m:	256.50-256.50
6 m:	256.50-256.50
Kruggerand:	\$418.60-419.50 (\$236.00-236.00)
Mariateresa:	(110oz) \$420.00-425.00 (\$253.50-256.50)
Maple Leaf:	\$420.00-425.00 (\$253.50-256.50)
New Sovereigns:	\$399.00-401.00 (£55.75-55.75)
Old Sovereigns:	\$99.00-101.00 (£12.50-12.50)

FRECHOU METALS

Platinum per oz:	\$525.45 (\$304.45)
Palladium per oz:	\$136.25 (\$84.45)
Silver Siver:	\$5.25-24.00 (\$3.00-3.10)

Low	Close	Vol	Open
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[illegible]

ILITIES

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 29. Dealings end February 9. Settlement day February 12. Settlement day February 19.
 \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES PAGE 28)

Portfolio
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Grand Mart (as)	Breweries	
2	Life Sciences	Electronics	
3	Lloyds (as)	Bank/Discount	
4	Marston (as)	Property	
5	TV-A-M	Telecom	
6	Harrold Sanga	Newspapers/Pub	
7	EMAP	Newspapers/Pub	
8	On Western (as)	Oil/Gas	
9	Eng China Clay (as)	Industrial E-K	
10	Mowlem (John)	Building/Roads	
11	Clifford Foods 'A'	Foods	
12	Marston (W)	Foods	
13	AAF Lev	Industrial A-D	
14	Town Centre	Property	
15	RFP	Newspapers/Pub	
16	Bellco Plc	Foods	
17	TV-A-M	Telecom	
18	Harrold Sanga	Newspapers/Pub	
19	Goal Plc	Oil/Gas	
20	Soot & New (as)	Breweries	
21	Net West (as)	Bank/Discount	
22	Dale Elec	Electronics	
23	NFC	Industrial L-R	
24	Ocean Trust	Shipping	
25	Yorkshire TV	Leisure	
26	Widening Office	Draperies/Stores	
27	Brewery	Oil/Gas	
28	Clifford Foods	Industrial A-D	
29	Harrold Sanga	Newspapers/Pub	
30	TSA (as)	Bank/Discount	
31	Amco	Building/Roads	
32	Beale (as)	Telecom	
33	Vesta	Industrial S-Z	
34	Gemstar	Industrial E-K	
35	Eastern Prod	Industrial E-K	
36	Sydney	Industrial S-Z	
37	Waddington (J)	Paper/Print/Advs	
38	Fish Lovell	Foods	
39	Church	Draperies/Stores	
40	Leeds	Industrial E-K	
41	Castle Green	Leisure	
42	Western Mount	Motor/Aircraft	
43	De La Rue	Industrial A-D	
44	Adams	Newspapers/Pub	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of \$4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

UNDATED

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

INDEX-LINKED

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

ELECTRICALS

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

HOTELS, CATERERS

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

S-Z

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

OIL, GAS

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

TOBACCOS

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

WATER

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

TEXTILES

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

SHOES, LEATHER

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

SHIPPING

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

HOTELS, CATERERS

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

S-Z

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

OIL, GAS

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

TOBACCOS

1989 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

Portfolio
PLATINUM

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1989/90 High Low Company Price Bid Offer Change % P/E

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1989/90 High Low Company Price Bid Offer Change % P/E

1989/90 High Low Company Price Bid Offer Change % P/E

WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) — Shares tumbled lower after blue chips crossed early gains with declining shares leading, advancing issues by a ratio of two to one. "Traders are using small rallies as selling opportunities," said one analyst.

As a result, small gains among blue chip issues were achieved in the first minutes of trading on technical buying were quickly lost.

Traders said concerns about corporate profits and a jittery junk-bond market plagued stocks.

Technical buying in the US bond market, after a six-day decline, also promptly dried up and the bellwether 30-year bond fell.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which closed down 5.85 points at 2,553.38 on Monday, was down a further 2.48 points at 2,550.90 in early trading.

Traders said concerns about corporate profits and a jittery junk-bond market plagued stocks.

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STOCK MARKET

Wellcome progress with FDA on anti-Aids drug

Wellcome has made a favourable impression on the US Food and Drug Administration in its attempt to have Retrovir, the anti-Aids drug, prescribed to all sufferers.

The FDA advisory panel has agreed to the proposals but Mr Jonathan de Pass, pharmaceutical analyst at BZW, the broker, says there is still a long way to go before final approval is given.

The committee has expressed reservations about the lack of information on the long term efficacy and side effects of the drug on sufferers. At present, the drug is only prescribed to patients with full-blown Aids symptoms.

"I'm almost certain Retrovir will be approved," he said and is sticking with his original forecast for a 75 per cent increase in sales of the drug in the current year.

Mr de Pass said the Wellcome share price, up 2p at 724p, was already discounting much of the news and reckoned it would be another couple of years before the full benefits were felt by the group.

The rest of the equity market was unsettled with share prices fluctuating in narrow limits throughout the session. The FT-SE 100 lost a lead of 5.2 to finish 8 down at 2,322.0. The FT index of top 30 shares also fell 10.9 to 1,853.0 with turnover touching almost 500 million shares.

But most of the activity was confined to market-makers selling stock in order to take a position in the Traded Options market. Hoare Govett is believed to have transacted a total of 37,000 contracts among the FT-SE 100 options.

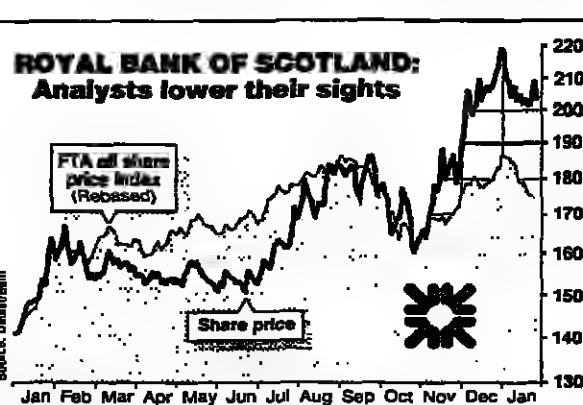
hang fell 20p to 450p, Priest Mariani 30p to 265p and Land Securities 9p to 496p. Only Percy Bilton resisted the trend jumping 36p to 461p. Bid hopes continued to drive Laid Properties higher with the price adding 14p at 594p. Chelsfield, the private property company with 15 per cent of the shares, is reviewing its

gold price and weaker Australian dollar. The All-Ordinaries Index closed up 11 points at 1,695.8.

Brokers said share prices opened firmer, led by gold and mining issues. Then news that National Australia Bank and Westpac Banking Corporation have been downgraded by credit-rating agency Moody's Investor Services triggered a sharp pullback.

Turnover eased to 118 million shares valued at Aus\$200 million (€90.7 million). Share price rises outnumbered falls by 211 to 130.

● **Sydney** — On the first trading day after a three-day holiday, the market rose as gold issues continued to rally on a strong



A dull start to trading on Wall Street ahead of the next bond auction failed to provide any incentive.

Government securities mirrored a nervous US bond market replacing gains of 2 1/2% with losses stretching to 2%.

There were some hefty mark-downs in the property sector although selling pressure appeared light. Rose-

KITZ remained a dull market sliding 15p to 510p after a series of profit downgrades. But Kleinwort Benson, the broker, has calculated a net asset value of more than 800p a share and says the price does not look overvalued. Earnings growth this year is unlikely to be exceptional but 1991 should see the uptrend re-established as metal prices continue to recover.

million. The news emerged after the recent collapse of two of its corporate clients Dominion International and Respon, a subsidiary of the troubled Collored Group. The sum owed is equivalent to almost half of the group's shareholder funds. Smith New Court, the stockbroker, responded quickly by trimming

gold price and weaker Australian dollar. The All-Ordinaries Index closed up 11 points at 1,695.8.

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Sale of TIP stake raises Colonnade holdings to £7m

By Jeremy Andrews

Colonnade Development Capital, the investment trust managed by British & Commonwealth and facing an £8.2 million bid from Stratagem, has sold its stake in TIP Europe for £1.55 million.

This means Colonnade's holdings of cash and gilts is now £7.08 million, equivalent to 140p per share allowing for the 3.2p dividend still to be paid for last year.

Colonnade said the 163p cash offer by Plusflow, Stratagem's bidding vehicle, was inadequate. It advised investors to take no action and await the board's own proposals for liquidating the trust.

Mr Bernard Kerrison, Stratagem's chairman, argued that Colonnade's portfolio was less liquid than might have been expected. "I think that makes our offer of 163p cash now look even more generous."

Local authority pension funds, including Merseyside, South Yorkshire and Derbyshire, are leading shareholders in Colonnade, and Stratagem clarified press reports by confirming it had initially received expressions of support for its bid from holders of 42.7 per cent of the shares. However, it subsequently bought stakes totalling 13.6 per cent of Colonnade from these shareholders, taking its own stake from 4.5 per cent to 18.1 per cent.

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MEDIA & MARKETING

Heavies show off their Sunday best

Every existing quality Sunday newspaper was on its best behaviour at the weekend. Each revealed something of its true character. *The Sunday Correspondent* (64 pages in two sections plus colour magazine, 60p), in only its twentieth issue, had a real, old-fashioned scoop — a report of a conversation between a Lebanese woman journalist and a Hezbollah guard about the conditions in which the hostage John McCarthy is being held in Beirut. *The Sunday Times* (122 pages in six sections plus a colour supplement containing a cartoon section, 60p) almost swamped its readers with information, features and the outpourings of a squadron of columnists, leavened by an excellent insight revelation on the manner in which some hospital consultants appear to be cheating the National Health Service to the advantage of their private practices. *The Sunday Telegraph* (64 pages in two sections, plus a film and television magazine, 50p) concentrated on news to good effect, while its Westminster enclave included a typically bitchy profile of Anthony Sampson, whose riveting television series about money has attracted the disapproval of those high priests of Tory philosophy. And the *Observer* (80 pages now in three sections plus colour supplement, 60p), while carrying an intriguing forecast of a clash between Margaret Thatcher and her Chancellor on defence spending, fielded its usual reserve striker in times of cup tie tension — Clive James, with yet another instalment of how an Aussie humorist captivated the Brits.

Of course, all this special exertion was occasioned by the launch of the fifth quality Sunday, the portentously named *Independent on Sunday* (28 broadsheet pages plus 144 tabloid pages, in three sections, 60p). Before the launch I believed that it would have relatively little difficulty in attaining its breakeven circulation of 350,000. After reading the first issue I am less certain.

Pictorial quality was outstanding. The front-page shot of Dawn Griffiths and her recovered baby was the best in the quality Sundays, and given full value. The Sunday Review section was studded with talent, and the reproduction of fashion colour was brilliant. The Business on Sunday section is a sensible idea.

But was it in total a little forbidding? The news section was perfectly respectable, if a little ordinary. But was there

just too much in the Review section? Were some of the articles a little too long? Although Lynn Barber wrote a fine interview with John Aspinall, was it such a good idea to use, yet again, that old picture of Lucan on the front page of the section? As for the business area (lead story, another rebash of the Guinness saga), the emphasis was surely too much on the magazine element, with news regarded as of secondary importance.

The editor, Stephen Glover, told the *Financial Times* that he would be "surprised and disappointed if we were far short of a sell-out". Surprise and disappointment must indeed be his lot today. Of 1,240,000 copies printed, it is estimated that only 720,000-800,000 copies were sold. The recent launch of *The Sunday Correspondent* undoubtedly diminished the rarity value of the launch. And the weather in many parts of the country was pretty foul. None the less, rivals were surprised, and perhaps relieved, that the launch sale was so low.

Equally, the effect on rival titles was less than expected. Figures are not yet confirmed, but the *Correspondent* sold 308,000 the week before the launch and does not expect to be too downcast by this week's figures. *The Sunday Times* believes it will show an increase of 4 per cent.

The Sunday Telegraph also hopes for a small increase while the *Observer* is likely to show a loss of 20,000-30,000.

Having sampled the new arrival, will readers drop it, cut an existing order — or will they increase their weekend read? Sales of Sunday papers are on a downward trend; it seems unlikely that the new one will add much, if at all, to the total market. My own guesstimate is that the newcomer will eventually settle well below 350,000.

Such a result would not be welcome news to the *Independent's* shareholders. It must therefore be expected that strenuous efforts will be made to lift the sale. The backing of *The Independent* will be helpful, but the example of *The Sunday Telegraph*, selling about half as many as its daily big brother, is not altogether encouraging.

The Sunday Correspondent, having overcome most of its teething problems, is still some way from profitability. Whether the managements of these two new Sundays will continue hostilities or whether they may yet reach an accommodation will no doubt become evident later in the year.

THE PRESS

Charles Wintour

Alex Sutherland meets the old hand appointed to head the new Independent Television Commission



David Glenross: "It is as important to make soap operas like *Coronation Street* to the best of your ability as it is to do a regular weekly current affairs show"

Television's civil servant

David Glenross is the archetypal civil servant of the established British broadcasting world. So when he was appointed last week to what will be one of the most influential posts in television's new commercial era there were a few raised eyebrows.

Many expected the job — chief executive-designate of the Independent Television Commission, the successor to the Independent Broadcasting Authority (starting salary between £80,000 and £85,000 a year) — to go to an industrialist or businessman in the Thatcher mould, rather than a man steeped in the traditions of public service broadcasting.

But there are reasons why George Russell, chairman-designate of the ITC, has chosen a man with more than 30 years' experience in the old ways. Russell has seen the chinks in the armour of the Home Office officials now in charge of broadcasting, who have shifted their ground from the absolute market imperatives

which shaped the original White Paper on Broadcasting.

Fierce lobbying by Britain's ITV chiefs has led to compromises on several key points, notably the decision to allow ITV licensees to pay their tender over the period of their franchise — 10 years — rather than in a lump sum up front. The highest bid auction for ITV franchises remains, but the quality debate has been pushed to centre stage.

Which is where Glenross comes in. "At the end of the day, programming will still be at the heart of the ITC's concerns," he says. "I was not surprised by the reactions to my appointment, but George Russell and his colleagues clearly felt they wanted somebody with different skills from the massive industrial and commercial experience he has. Since the White Paper, there has been a good deal of recognition by the Government that programming needs to be stressed. It is clear now that it will achieve a much higher profile throughout."

Programming experience is some-

thing Glenross has in bagfuls — 12 years at the BBC, followed by 20 with the IBA. As the IBA's director of television since 1983, and deputy director before that, he has watched as much television as anyone in broadcasting. And he knows the present ITV system intimately. Indeed, he helped formulate most of it.

He makes no apologies for being from the old school. "Some would say that having spent all my life in broadcasting might be a disadvantage, but what I have is the knowledge and commitment to programmes of all kinds, which is what really matters. That's what the viewers care about," he says.

Glenross stresses that he can adapt when needed. He has already helped realign the IBA, he insists, from its nanny role as ITV's publisher, responsible for schedules and programmes, to that of light-touch regulator with a remit that will cover the new cable and satellite services as well.

On closer inspection, though, there are obviously strong traditional ten-

dencies at work. Glenross is eager for the most part to see things continue as there are. He is adamant that the ITV companies — currently working on changes to their network arrangements — maintain the basic regional structure of the ITV system. Above all, he wants to make sure that the commitment to regional programmes is carried into the 1990s.

He feels ITV will have to try harder in the face of more competition, but does not see any strong argument for radical changes either to the ITV map (the number of companies covering the country), or the programming menu. Pressed to criticize current programming, he offers comedy as one area which needs improving.

However Glenross's notion of "quality" remains as vague as any broadcaster or government official. "You could call it 'serious programmes', and they do of course have their part to play in the range, but it is just as important to make soap operas like *Coronation Street* to the best of your ability as it is to do a regular weekly current affairs show," he says.

BBC

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MEDIA & MARKETING

Commercially speaking

Even the best-known actors will now do the highly profitable advertising voice-over

JUST over a year ago, a little-known actor with the improbable name of Stephan de Montaignac (stage name, Stephen Chase), spied a gap in the market. Like him, many of his friends were keen to supplement their income by doing voice-overs, but unsure about how to find work. On a hunch he set up Roobarb, an agency specialising in voice-overs, and now does a roaring trade with such names as Rula Lenzia, Gareth Hunt, Kate O'Mara, Michael Aspel, Peter Jeffrey and Julie Dawn Cole on his books.

Most actors use voice-over agencies in addition to their existing agencies. "Voice-overs are booked at short notice, often for the next day," explained de Montaignac. "It's fast-moving, so you need someone working on it full-time."

A crop of similar companies has since sprung up — Voices, Castaway, Evans O'Brien and the women-only outfit, Speakless, to name a few — and business is booming. "Voice-overs have come out of the closet," says Saatchi & Saatchi's casting director, Louise Fennimore. "The better-known actors and actresses used to be snooty about commercials, but now the Tom Contis, Michael Gambons and Judi Denches are all interested."

Agencies choose recognizable voices not for a particular part but to portray a type — Penelope Keith



Star names: Judi Dench and Michael Hordern, both likely to be heard any evening during the commercial breaks

for the bossy schoolmistress, Simon Cadell for a hapless, confused character. There has always been a handful of serious actors who saw the sense in earning money through advertising — Orson Welles had a long-running contract with Caribbea, and Peter Sellers recorded ads for PG Tips and Kennecott dog food. Others such as Ian Holm, John Hurt and Geoffrey Palmer have never balked at putting their voices to commercial use. But they were always exceptions to the rule.

Now, if you spend an evening in front of the television, you may hear Conti (British Airways), Gambon

(Allied Dunbar) and Dench (Sheba cat food), joined by Joss Ackland, Jane Asher, Sir Michael Hordern, Tim Pigott-Smith, Peter Egan, and the ubiquitous Stephen Fry. Lennie Henry, Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones should also pop up at least once or twice. Many of the same performers also make radio ads. De Montaignac attributes the growing popularity of voice-overs to the diminishing amount of television acting work available. "Four or five years ago there used to be plenty of television drama. Now television relies so heavily on American and Australian imports, repeats and game shows, that actors

have had to broaden their horizons." But it is also bound up with improved standards of UK advertising in the 1980s. Mandy Wheeler, a radio commercials producer, says: "Ad agencies have thankfully moved away from the hard-sell, very authoritative, 'dark brown' voice-over of the Seventies, which always seemed to be done by Patrick Allen (who had his own agency, now closed, to market himself). They have also stopped using the patronizing soft-sell, with the sing-song voice and friendly inflections." Wheeler believes the quality of scripts in radio advertising in

particular has improved, as more advertisers use it as an economic alternative to television. In a recession-hit market, revenue for the medium grew by 25 per cent to £104 million in the first nine months of 1989, with forecasts of up to £140 million for the full year.

Peter Jeffrey, star of BBC1's drama series *Chelworth* last summer and currently the voice in television and radio commercials for KP Nuts, Citroen and Boots, says: "These days, voice-overs are like an extension of radio drama. But it's a challenge of a different sort. You might be playing a pimple or a flat tyre, which is much harder than it sounds."

Like Jeffrey, actor Tony Head, who plays the male half of the Gold Blend coffee couple and records an average of four voice-overs a week, including corporate videos, finds the split-second timing required a pleasing exercise in precision. "It's quite daunting," Head says. "You get 30 seconds to create a character who must mention the product's name at least twice, while still sounding natural. If you take 31 seconds, it's no good."

But even more attractive is the money. Equity rates for voice-overs seem modest: £57.50 an hour for television commercials and £60 an hour for radio. In reality, the standard rate is between £50 and £150 an hour, depending on who you are, but the real rewards lie in the repeat fees, which can run into several thousand pounds for a long-running, nationally networked television campaign and several hundreds for radio.

Lisa O'Kelly

Who will win Mondadori?

The struggle for control of Italy's biggest publishers has had bitter consequences

THE struggle between two top financiers for control of Mondadori, Italy's largest publishing group, has led to pressure for an anti-trust law. This aims to restrict the growing concentration of the country's media by putting a limit on overlapping television and newspaper interests.

Demand for the introduction of the law, first raised more than two years ago, were behind Mondadori's strike by more than 10,000 journalists. Their immediate anger was aimed at Silvio Berlusconi, the enigmatic Milanese television magnate, who, on Thursday, beat off competition from Carlo de Benedetti, the chairman of Olivetti, to take the presidency (and

thus effective control) of Mondadori, Italy's largest publishing group.

With it came control of L'Espresso group, publisher of what are probably Italy's two most influential print media, *Repubblica*, the daily newspaper which vies with *Corriere della Sera* for the title of Italy's biggest selling newspaper, and *Famiglia*, the weekly news magazine which sells 700,000 copies a week.

Repubblica and Berlusconi are two powerful symbols in Italian political culture. The newspaper was founded in 1976 by Prince Carlo Carac-

ciolo and Eugenio Scalfari, its respected, leftist editor, in partnership with the then family-owned Mondadori. It established a reputation for hard-hitting journalism, attacking, in particular, the ruling establishment of Giulio Andreotti, the present Italian prime minister and Bettino Craxi, the Socialist Party leader.

Berlusconi is a skilful and

opportunistic former night club singer who has built up Italy's only national commercial television network. To some, he is an iconoclast who broke the power of the state broadcaster; to others, he is a purveyor of down-market game shows and imported films.

Last year, through judicious state building, De Benedetti seemed in control of Mondadori. Caracciolo and Scalfari

were content to sell their share of L'Espresso to him, thus giving Mondadori overall control. But a death in the family which controlled Mondadori allowed Berlusconi to take executive control, trumping De Benedetti who only had a majority of the shares, most of them non-voting.

With Berlusconi at the helm of *Repubblica*, he will have about 16.5 per cent of Italy's newspaper market to add to the 45 per cent of the national television audience he has through his three main chan-

nels. Mondadori will also bring an additional 17 per cent of the national magazine market to his thriving periodicals business, not to mention its core book publishing division.

Scalfari has said he will refuse to recognize Berlusconi as his publisher. A compromise has been suggested: Berlusconi could take the main publishing group, leaving De Benedetti in control of the group's newspaper and magazine titles. If that does not work out, Scalfari threatens that, as he did 14 years ago, he will start up a new paper. The outcome of the corporate battle will be watched with interest.

Andrew Lycett

The old grey magazine test

Choice relaunches in the hope that a rich and glossy new life begins at 50

THE over-fifties are desperate for a magazine of their own, says Wendy James, editor of the revamped and relaunched *Choice*. Having recently turned 50 herself, James believes maturity has been undervalued for too long. "We're vibrant, dynamic, prepared for a different type of challenge," she says. "We have boundless energy."

The over-fifties also have a lot of cash. And there are plenty of them: 38 per cent of the British population is aged more than 50, and by the year 2000 the figure will be more than 40 per cent. They have 70 per cent of the country's savings, and 82 per cent of their income is disposable — £108 billion a year. It is the first generation to benefit through inheritance from property price inflation.

So perhaps the surprising thing is not that Emap should be targeting them now, but that it hasn't happened before. "Research on the dummy shows this age group was desperate for a magazine of its own," James says. "I think they felt very isolated."

Choice has been around for 17 years, and owned by Emap for six. Until the relaunch it concentrated on personal financial planning for the over-sixties, selling 10,000 copies on newsstands and the rest of its 76,000 monthly circulation through subscription — many of them to companies for distribution to employees approaching retirement.

The experience of Bayard Presse, which relaunched a similar publication, *Notre Temps*, in France, led to the formation last year of a 50-50 partnership between Bayard and Emap to relaunch *Choice* along similar lines.

"Bayard made *Notre Temps* all about expanding lifestyles and developing new interests, and it now sells 1.3 million copies. If it happened in France, where the demographic profile is similar, there is no reason why it shouldn't happen here," says Heather Aylott, *Choice's* new publisher. How long Emap will

remain alone in the market is another question: there is speculation that a number of the established American titles for the age group, like *Lear's*, *Moxie* and *Mirabella*, may be looking to enter the British scene. And there have long been rumours that IPC is planning a women's magazine for the age group.

James, who was previously at *Bella* and *Woman*, says the editorial will focus on new opportunities for a new age, a time when, for many people, pressures to conform and perform ease off.

The first issue of the revamped *Choice* (the January number, priced £1.50) had features on cross-country skiing, and a group of women aged more than 60 who drove to Monte Carlo to raise money for charity. Aylott says she is getting interest from advertisers of holidays, housing, cars, insurance, leisure and pharmaceuticals.

The new *Choice* — now full colour throughout — guarantees a 100,000 circulation by April. Emap will spend £5 million over two years to support the launch, with an above-the-line campaign to break in May through Harari Page, a new agency, and a hefty push through direct marketing.

Aylott hopes the continued presence of consumer advice and personal finance columns will keep the magazine interesting to companies, but that newsstand and personal subscription will make up the bulk of sales.

Editorial will be "guided, not dictated" by *Notre Temps*, James says. Topics like terminal illness and bereavement won't be ignored, "but they will be handled in a sensitive way, depending on feedback from readers". On the whole, editorial will be upbeat.

For Emap, there are hopes that this is just the beginning. "Once *Choice* is going well," Aylott says, "I envisage us growing and growing and having more publications in the group."

Geraldine Bedell

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For further information and an application form please phone 01-872 0951 (24 hour recruitment line) or write to Personnel Department, Middlesex Area Probation Service, 4th Floor, Glen House, 200 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LA.

Closing date: 13th February 1990.

Middlesex Area Probation Service is a multi racial area, and positively welcomes applications from people of Afro-Caribbean and Asian origin and those with disabilities as they are under-represented at this level.

MIDDLESEX AREA PROBATION SERVICE
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If you are expecting a great deal in making a move - a charming, dynamic boss; high-powered liaison; genuine involvement; perhaps also prestigious offices, you won't be disappointed! You must be at home in a financial environment with minimum two years' board level experience and require the challenge of creating structure to each of your boss's action-packed days. Superb shorthand skills will allow you maximum flexibility to handle delegated responsibilities. Please call Lisa Bellow on 01-491-1868.

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EUROLANGUAGE LTD.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

requires Secretary/P.A. with sh/hand to organise his office and daily schedule. Essential qualities are good speeds, W.P. and P.C. experience and the ability to thrive under pressure. A good command of spoken and written French would be a distinct advantage. Eurolanguage is the U.K. member of a group of French Companies, involved in the provision of language courses for students of many nationalities. Salary in the region of £12,000. Applicants with full CV to Jessica Corby, Eurolanguage Ltd., Greyhound House, 23/24 George Street, Richmond Surrey TW9 1HY.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CHATHAM HOUSE

seeks Personal Assistant to the Director of Development

A responsible position working in a department involved in income generating strategies and marketing activities for the Institute. Applicants should have energy and initiative. Excellent word processing skills are essential and an ability to work under pressure, when necessary, to meet deadlines. A knowledge of international affairs and/or a marketing background would be advantageous. Salary in the region of £11,000.

International Economics Programme

Seeks experienced and energetic programme assistant, organizational and word processing skills required. Interest in international affairs and economics advantageous. Salary in the region of £10,500, but negotiable for the right person.

For further details of both positions please telephone 01-930 2233 or write to the Personnel Department at 10 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LE, enclosing a full CV with covering letter by February 12th 1990.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

SALARY NEG + COMMISSION

We are a privately owned Recruitment Consultancy with a strong reputation in the Commercial and Bi-Lingual sectors for high calibre temporary and permanent staff. We are now about to expand our Bi-Lingual Division and are looking to recruit a self-motivated Consultant with a minimum of 1 year's experience in Bi-Lingual Recruitment to work in Central London. The atmosphere is busy and informal, we offer real scope to develop your client base, actively encouraging client visits. Financially, we believe our commission package is second to none and our basic well above average. If you are a proven high-achiever, and can combine integrity with drive and enthusiasm.

Why not give Carol Hughes a call on 680 5112 for further details.

SENIOR PARTNERS PA/SECRETARY

We are a firm of Chartered Accountants, based in the W1 area, currently seeking to recruit a strong confident P/A Secretary to provide a very high standard of support to a very busy senior partner dealing with consultancy. The position provides an excellent opportunity for a hard working career minded P/A secretary with the freedom to travel at short notice either within the United Kingdom or abroad. The position involves a variety of tasks including not only routine secretarial duties but also the handling of confidential work, general correspondence, reports, taking minutes of meetings and client liaison. Applicants should possess excellent organisational skills, confident use of written and oral English, the ability to assess priorities, able to deal with figures and have good word processing and shorthand skills. A mature outlook together with a flexible approach, tact and initiative are essential. If you are 28+ with at least 3 years experience of working at a senior level for Chartered Accountants and feel that this position would give you the challenge you are looking for. Please apply in writing with a comprehensive CV and recent passport size photograph to P.O. Box J72, (no agencies). Excellent salary commensurate with experience for the right candidate.

Creating a brighter tomorrow Swiss Cottage — £14,000

Challenging 'start-up' situation needs a brilliant organiser with superb admin skills to take control of a unique and very special project. It means doing everything - from organising window cleaners and doing the banking to dreaming up new fund-raising ideas. Based at the nerve centre at active, surrounded by directors, doctors and scientists, a team spirit approach and an enquiring mind are of paramount importance. You can communicate at any and every level and have a real 'knack' of getting things done. Skills 180/501 are only part of your ability for a real challenge, real hard work and real rewards, call 01-493 0713.

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MERRYWEATHER

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A SUCCESSFUL international company, renowned for its quality products, our client has a highly rewarding opportunity for a proficient administrator with demonstrable secretarial skills.

Working in a well-connected, busy, modern office for our sales team, you will have a good basic knowledge of written and spoken French. Familiar with word processing, you should have good interpersonal skills and, ideally, experience of working in a sales environment.

Salary will be in the range £11,000 to £13,000, depending on experience. In addition we offer a significant range of competitive benefits.

Please send full cv which will be forwarded to our client unopened. Address to our Security Manager if listing companies to which it should not be sent. Ref: T5054/T, PA Consulting Group, Advertising and Communications, Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE. Closing date for receipt of applications 9 February 1990.

PA Consulting Group

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We are a leading firm of recruitment consultants active in middle management markets. We are seeking a graduate with secretarial skills to work for two senior consultants in the banking division. Your duties will include liaising with senior contacts in the financial services sector, taking instructions and arranging interviews. Operating on our fully computerised systems you will provide a full range of support and be involved in ad hoc research projects.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn the fundamentals of recruitment, offering the potential to become a consultant. If you would like to apply for this position, please telephone or write to Sarah Adcock, Manager.

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We are looking for enthusiastic, well educated, creative thinkers with excellent typing/WP, organisation, presentation and communication skills.

SECRETARY/PA, PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MARKETING

A new challenging role offering full involvement assisting one of our General Managers in promoting the Chamber. Shorthand and experience in PR/Journalism useful.

PA/ADMIN ASSISTANT, INTERNATIONAL

Assist our executives in encouraging trade between the UK and International markets by organising and promoting events and providing information to our members.

Send CV or telephone for more details (248 4444)
Deborah Jarvis, London Chamber, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6AB

CHARTLEIGH

JUNIOR SECRETARY £3,500
An established and progressive company based in the West of England are looking to reward you if you can match the skills they need. With your secretarial knowledge and good typing skills, a willingness to learn and a flexible attitude they will give you an excellent overall training scheme, great promotional prospects and a chance to develop your career. £3.5k a week role, call Ref: 174.

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Are you looking for a job in the West? Our client is a team of young and hard working consultants who know how to look after their employees and will leave you busy and motivated at all times. The office is modern and open plan with all the latest equipment and all a typing will be provided. This is an ideal job for someone who enjoys being a valued member of a hard working team. Ref: GIB543.

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Develop your skills in a busy office. You will be a team of young and hard working consultants who know how to look after their employees and will leave you busy and motivated at all times. The office is modern and open plan with all the latest equipment and all a typing will be provided. This is an ideal job for someone who enjoys being a valued member of a hard working team. Ref: GIB543.

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Develop your organisational and people skills alongside a charming, good humoured senior partner who knows how to look after their employees and will leave you busy and motivated at all times. The office is modern and open plan with all the latest equipment and all a typing will be provided. This is an ideal job for someone who enjoys being a valued member of a hard working team. Ref: GIB543.

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Join the friendly support team of this prestigious international Accounts and enjoy a rewarding career where you will truly feel at home. A chance to develop your skills and experience in a secure environment. As a series of 'mentors' an established practice where you can learn for many years. Ref: B4424

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01-255 3140

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An experienced top PA with translator level Italian and French (and commercial translation experience) is required by our well located blue chip City clients. Lots of involvement and responsibility for the right applicant. Some audio. Wang (and shorthand useful).

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Bi-lingual level French is required to join this very friendly French advertising company based in West London. No shorthand but typing and WP needed. Salary £12,000 + benefits.

NORTH LONDONERS!! WHY COMMUTE?

Director's Secretary required with shorthand, audio and WP. Friendly, lively atmosphere, flexible hours. 'A' level German an advantage. Based in North London. Salary £12,000 + benefits.

International Secretaries

01-491 7100

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SUNDAY TIMES NEWSDESK SECRETARY Aged 23 plus Salary: £12,000

A Secretary is required to work on the NewsDesk of the Sunday Times. Experience in a similar environment would be an asset.

Applicants should have a mature outlook, possess good secretarial skills (100/60), and have the ability to work under pressure, whilst maintaining an excellent telephone manner.

An excellent benefits package is offered, which includes six weeks holiday and BUPA.

Applicants should apply in writing only, enclosing a CV together with daytime telephone number, to

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News International Newspapers Limited
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This is a unique opening for an experienced RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT to join our successful team of specialists. We are PRIVATELY OWNED and already have a large, well-established client base. We offer CAREER DEVELOPMENT, ONGOING TRAINING and the opportunity to work alongside some of the most experienced consultants in our field. You will be a POLISHED, PROFESSIONAL who is discerning and determined to play a key role in our company's success story. 6 months experience please.

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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3. IS IT A SNAIL? IS IT A CORPSE?
NO, IT'S MAINTENANCE MAN.

AT 11AM THE LIFT DOORS SLIDE OPEN. THERE STANDS BERT THE MAINTENANCE MAN. THREE WEEKS, FOUR DAYS AND 2 HOURS AFTER I'D CALLED HIM TO FIX THE GREAT DICTATOR'S (MY DEAR BOSS) STICKING DESK DRAWER.

"I THOUGHT I'D MAKE AN EARLY START!" HE YELLED CHEERFULLY. UNFORTUNATELY THE LIFT DOORS WERE THINKING THE SAME. THEY CLOSED FIRMLY ON HIS SPIRIT-LEVEL BEFORE HE COULD COMPLETE HIS ENTRANCE. "ELP I'M STUCK! CALL THE ENGINEER."

"YOU ARE THE ENGINEER" I REPLIED. "ISN'T THERE A LIFT KEY ON YOUR FLOOR?" HE WHIMPERED. "YES," I CALLED BACK. "IT'S IN THE DRAWER YOU CAME TO FIX."

WAITING FOR THE FIRE BRIGADE, I TURNED TO THE ELIZABETH HUNT JOB PAGE, AMUSED BY THE THOUGHT THAT A LAZY COWBOY IS ALWAYS BEATEN TO THE DRAWER.

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Elizabeth Hunt
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If this is music to your ears, key requirements are:

- a score of 100 wpm SH/60 wpm typing
- two years as a virtuoso at Director level in London.
- a comprehensive repertoire of WP systems

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Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Executive Status
To £20,000+ benefits

Our client is an American-owned, enormously successful Management Consultancy. A refreshing, egalitarian working environment abounds within the organisation and this is reflected in the high level of commitment and teamwork displayed by their employees. A newly-created, senior position has arisen assisting their three Vice-Presidents. Intelligence, professionalism and organisational prowess of the highest order are needed to bring a sense of ordered calm to a potentially chaotic position. Skills (90/50) and a totally flexible approach pre-requisite. Age 30-40. If you're the best, we need to talk. Telephone 01-493 5787 without delay.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

MARY HOLLAND ASSOCIATES

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CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY
£19,000 + mortgage subsidy

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English Rose
College Leaver

Fascinating opportunity for a top College Leaver (preferably PSE1) to join a small, select Management Consultancy. A beautiful Regency style office sets the scene for this busy role providing right hand support to a dynamic and sometimes hectic Consultant. Confident skills (80-40) needed. Immaculate presentation and good communication skills essential in this "people-oriented" position. Super first job providing excellent grounding and immense opportunities for total involvement. Age 18-4. Salary circa £10,000. Call 01-493 5787 for further details.

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In addition to the traditional P.A. duties, you will handle all aspects of travel arrangements, look after foreign visitors, organise meetings, take executive minutes and generally keep the office running smoothly (with the support of a part-time secretary).

We are looking for an experienced P.A. with excellent shorthand and typing skills who is used to working at senior level. Good spoken and written French (including dictation) is essential, although we would prefer English as your mother tongue. We are also looking for a high standard of presentation and lots of initiative. Applicants under 28 are unlikely to have the degree of maturity necessary for this responsible position.

If you would like to develop your career in a lively, stimulating environment which will give you a global overview of the beauty industry we would like to hear from you. Generous benefits include five weeks' holiday, private healthcare and contributory pension scheme.

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GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

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Exceptional opportunity for a top calibre College Leaver to work with one of London's premier Art Galleries. Based in lovely Mayfair surroundings, you will enjoy plenty of high-level contact, both on the telephone and in the Gallery proper as you deal with international clientele. The pace can be frantic, especially during major sales... yet this is a fabulous opportunity to learn all about the Art World inside out — from the top! Flexible, enthusiastic manner requested. First-class skills (80/50) essential. Salary £10,500. Telephone 01-493 5787.

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Recruitment Consultants

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An exciting co with an
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Good SH/Typing a must.
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Positively recommended!

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acknowledged. Skills
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£18,000 + car
North Acton

Do you want to be involved in a successful British plc which is rapidly expanding both in the UK and abroad? Do you understand mergers, acquisitions and rights issues and are you looking for a challenging and rewarding role? The forward thinking Chairman needs a like minded secretary whose standards of work and commitment equal his own. You will be organising meetings with City institutions, banks, Government departments and MPs as well as arranging slide presentations and general secretarial work. Age 30-40. Skills 100/60/wp. Director level experience essential. Please call Lynne Dawson on 01-437 6032 or send your cv to Victory House, 99-101 Regent Street, London W1. Fax: 01-494 0607.

HOBSTONES
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Persuasive Perks!
£18,000 package

International bank (central City) needs a flexible senior secretary for their Managing Director responsible for Capital Markets and Administration.

You will help him oversee these areas by arranging business and personal travel, making plans for senior level visitors, composing his correspondence and organising signing ceremonies. Some Capital Markets administration will come your way in the form of compiling daily swap rates onto weekly information sheets. Aged 25-35 with 80wpm shorthand, A Levels and some banking experience, this is the job with the perks for you. 9-5, paid overtime, bonus and mortgage subsidy. Please telephone Catherine Ferguson on 01-588 3535.

Crone Corkill

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You are a poised, immaculately-presented and confident Receptionist who is eager for a stimulating, front-line role within a prestigious, international organisation. You possess a flexible, professional manner and enjoy the ability to liaise effectively at all levels; in short, you enjoy the primary responsibilities of maintaining a busy reception; booking meetings rooms; co-ordinating chauffeurs' movements and greeting senior-level, VIP clients. Aged 24-32 and team-spirited? Fantastic, luxurious offices in EC2. Call us today on 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

VARIG
BRAZILIAN
AIRLINES

Require an assistant to the Administration Manager at our Hanover Street Offices.

The successful applicant must be able to work under pressure in a busy environment and relate to senior personnel as and when required. The position demands on individual who is able to work on their own initiative and has good organisational abilities to add to sound secretarial skills (shorthand and word processing).

Non smoker, numerate and a good sense of humour are also essential qualities required. Age 28 plus. In return we offer an excellent salary of £16,000.00 plus benefits.

Written applications with CV should be addressed to:
Administration Manager
Varig Brazilian Airlines
16/17 Hanover Street, London W1V 0HG

Telephone: 01-493 5787
Fax: 01-493 5787

PROPERTY PA/
SECRETARY

For small, busy rentals company in Mayfair. Must be energetic, well organised, cheerful and have sound secretarial skills. Attractive salary. Fax me your CV on 493 6002 or Call Marilyn on 493 8403

INTER-
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The new let to bath. Con-
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Continued on next page

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King and Queen Wharf, Rotherhithe Street, Rotherhithe, London SE16.

Show homes and sales centre open from 10am to 6pm weekends, and 11am to 8pm weekdays. Tel: 01-351 6134.



Fully furnished studio apartments from £55,000. One bedroom apartments from £57,500. Two bedroom apartments from £75,000. Two bedroom, two bathroom apartments with river view from £140,000.

These figures represent 50% of the full purchase price. Service charges and ground rent extra. Up to 95% mortgage available through City of London and Gloucester Building Society, subject to status.

FAIR SHARE

Fairclough Homes

C&G Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society

For further details, visit our offices at 100 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, or contact our sales centre at King and Queen Wharf, Rotherhithe, London SE16.



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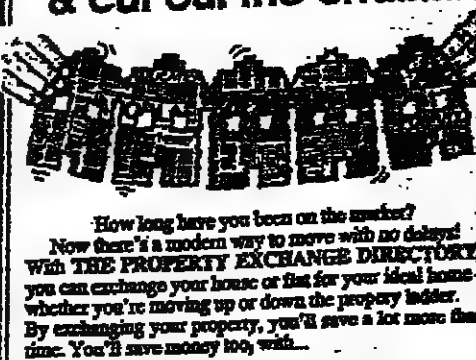
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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Steaming ahead

Plans for a spectacular 600,000 sq ft office development between Holborn Viaduct and Blackfriars on the western fringe of the City of London have been unveiled by Rosehaugh Stanhope Developments.

The £360 million scheme, planned in association with British Rail, has been made possible by the closure of Holborn Viaduct station, which ran its last train last Friday, and the consequent demolition of the viaduct running from there to Blackfriars Station.

Before the office building gets under way, Rosehaugh Stanhope is undertaking the major engineering project - costing £130 million - of realigning the Thameslink rail connection, sending it underground at Ludgate Hill where it will provide a new station, to be called St Paul's Thameslink, and then into the old Snow Hill tunnel to King's Cross.

The station is due to open at the end of May, and Rosehaugh Stanhope Developments has submitted a detailed application to develop the four-acre railway corridor site, intending to complete it in mid-1991. It involves five separate buildings, with shops and restaurants, and the creation of a new public square as well as walkways between Holborn and Blackfriars.

The new scheme, Ludgate, is the latest joint venture between two of the leading property developers, Rosehaugh and Stanhope, the first being the Broadgate development at Liverpool Street, creating 3.5 million sq ft of offices, shops and

A £360 million scheme will transform the site of London's Holborn Viaduct station

restaurants. They are also involved in the £3 billion redevelopment of King's Cross.

There will be deliberate contrasts between the five buildings, which vary in size from 52,000 sq ft (net) to 150,000 sq ft (net), and have been designed by three architects. The master planner will be Ranton Howard Wood Levin Partnership, which is also responsible for one of the buildings, and the other firms will be Skidmore, Owings and Merrill and John Outram Associates.

The latter is perhaps the most interesting, for this will be the first substantial project for the colourful British architect John Outram, whose previous work has included houses, factories and warehouses.

He has designed the building nearest Blackfriars, next to the historic public house The Blackfriar, which is remarkable for two features. It will be clad in multi-coloured tiles and designed so that trains from Blackfriars will go through the building.

Stuart Lipton of Stanhope says the buildings are a complete contrast in design and shape "to provide variety while complementing the other buildings in the area. We learnt a lesson at

Broadgate, where I believe too much is the same."

He explains that the buildings have been "conceptually designed" for a legal centre. "There will be no trading floors. We always ask the customer what is wanted and this is a traditional area for lawyers, so these offices are predominantly for legal practices."

Martin Chikott, of Gooch and Wagstaff, appointed with Baker Harris Saunders and Jones Lang Wootton as letting agents, anticipates significant demand for space there. "The dismantling of the viaduct will remove a physical barrier within this favoured western sector of the City of London and will open up hitherto obstructed views of St Paul's," he says. "We are already receiving a number of positive inquiries from potential tenants both within the professional and financial sectors."

With the development inextricably linked with the railway changes, it has been a complex project, requiring an Act of Parliament. Rosehaugh Stanhope has been working on it for some three years, and carrying out construction work for 12 months. The group has worked closely with the Museum of London and is funding a £2 million archaeological dig. The dig is already achieving considerable success in its attempts to find some of the missing links in the City's past, including the "lost" River Fleet (of which parts of the banks have been found), Blackfriars Priory, a second Tower of London and the Fleet prison.



Viking Property Group, the development arm of City Site Estates, has let more than 70 per cent of its comprehensive refurbishment of The Lyceum in Liverpool to the Post Office and the National & Provincial Building Society. It has achieved a rent of over £175,000 a year from the Post Office, which will occupy 13,000 sq ft and sublet about 1,850 sq ft. The

building, which will become Liverpool's main city centre post office, is one of the finest Georgian buildings in the area, designed in 1802 as the first circular public library in England. The remaining 6,000 sq ft are available at an annual rent of £55,000 through Clayton Booth & Partners, Bernard Thorpe & Partners and Peter Murdoch & Co.

■ The Arbour at Whitebrook Park, near Maidenhead, Berkshire, has been sold to Hitachi Europe for £42 million as its new European headquarters. The development was carried out jointly by Chesterfield Properties and Capital & City Properties, and the Japanese electronics company has acquired the new 93,000 sq ft air-conditioned building and two restored period buildings, The Stable and The Lodge.

■ Princes Tower at Rotherhithe, on the south bank of the Thames in south-east London, is a distinctive modern building which was originally intended for residential occupation. It has now been divided into eight units with a live/work use ranging in size from 736 sq ft to 1,704 sq ft. The prices for this innovative Docklands scheme are £215,000 to £380,000.

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Plotting a positive path to crock of gold

Master and pupil: Trevino (right) imparts the wisdom of a veteran to Davis in the Palm Springs sunshine.

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Court (Judge 120;
a jury) of wounding with intent

parade could not see or hear

ant as to the identity of the assailant, but it was relevant as to the identification of the suspect by the witness.

In asserting that the man he thought was the assailant was

there is an act accompanied by a statement which is so mixed up with it as to become part of the *res gestae*, evidence of such statement may be given in evidence."

Solicitors: CPS, Inner London.

defendant in the parade, immediately afterwards in-
his Lordship said that the general rule that the prosecution had to call the whole of its

The robbery had been observed by a delivery driver who, while failing to identify the defendant in the parade, immediately afterwards in-

Graham Steven McCay against this conviction on September 15, 1989 at Inner London Crown Court (Judge Fabyan Evans and a jury) of wounding with intent

There is an act accompanied by a statement which is so mixed up with it as to become part of the *res gestae*, evidence of such statement may be given in evidence."

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The Draught Bass flavour-wheel—how we make sure every pint's as distinctive as the last.



You can tell it with your eyes closed.

Gilkes voices his disappointments over Thompson

Daley Thompson, Britain's leading all-round athlete of the 1980s, offers a bad example to youngsters off the track, according to Eugene Gilkes yesterday, the day after he won a bronze medal for England in the decathlon at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland.

Gilkes, a club-mate of Thompson at Newham and his likely successor as England's No. 1 decathlete, admitted that the two men rarely speak. Gilkes said that the former double Olympic champion was "not the ideal role model" for youngsters. "Sometimes he lets himself and the event down," said

Gilkes, aged 27, who after years in Thompson's shadow has had to battle through a series of injury problems to earn his Auckland success. "I wouldn't want my son to behave in public the way Daley has sometimes done," he said.

Thompson has often courted controversy off the track. He once used a four-letter word on television when collecting the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award and caused a storm when he made flippant comments about the Princess Royal during a press conference when he won gold in the decathlon at the Los Angeles Olympic

Games. Gilkes, who has a four-month-old son, was angry that the BBC had not shown any coverage of the first day's events in the decathlon on Sunday. He said: "I was disgusted when I heard that. What upsets me is that when Daley isn't there, it doesn't make the decathlon any the less interesting."

Even the announcer at the Mount Smart Stadium added to Gilkes' disappointment when he asked spectators to give the watching Thompson a round of applause during the decathlon competition. The crowd responded with a long, loud cheer.

Gilkes, from Croydon, has been at the same London club as Thompson for many years but admits their paths never

No test facilities for drugs in India

Delhi (Reuters) — The Indian weightlifter who failed a drugs test at the Commonwealth Games was not tested previously because India had no adequate testing facilities, the head of the country's weightlifting federation said yesterday.

Subratkumar Paul, winner of two silver medals and a bronze in the lightweight (67.5kg) division, tested positive for anabolic steroids in an initial test on Monday. Paul flew home before hearing the result of the follow-up test, being conducted in Sydney, but Games sources said yesterday it had also proved positive.

Retired Air Marshal Chaman Mehta said Paul could not be adequately tested before the Games in Auckland because "we do not have any such testing facilities in India". He said all that the Weightlifting Federation of India (WFI) could do was

warn lifters of the dangers of drug use.

"Lifters are not generally tested for drugs... We have to accept their words on face value, while warning them of the consequences if found guilty on this count," Mehta said.

"We even made the lifters selected for Auckland sign a legal bond saying that in the event of them being caught for taking steroids they would have to refund the cost incurred in training and sending them."

He said the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had told the WFI to conduct a thorough medical examination of its 10 entrants before they left India for Auckland. The federation had complied as best it could, but without laboratories able to detect concealed use of steroids.

Both Mehta and an IOA spokesman said they did not know Paul's whereabouts.

Commonwealth Games reports, pages 44 and 45

cross. Ironically, Gilkes was called in by the England selectors to replace Thompson when the former world No. 1 pulled out of the Auckland team last month through injury.

"Don't get me wrong, Daley Thompson is a great athlete — he has been the decathlon for the past 10 years. If I were a youngster, I would have to admire Daley's athletic ability, but one has to say that he is not the ideal role model for people's children."

Thompson, in New Zealand to watch the Games, was reluctant to comment either on Gilkes' performance or his words but confirmed that he is back in training after his knee operation last year and hopes to compete in the European Championships in Yugoslavia in August. "I feel no urge to compete here, but I aim to be in Yugoslavia," he said.

Weightlifting under threat of expulsion

By John Goodbody

Weightlifting, one of the most splendidly basic of sports, has been riddled with drugs for more than 20 years.

So frequently have there been drug scandals at important Games that there were moves to drop weightlifting from the Olympic Games programme after Seoul, when five of the 10 competitors found positive were from weightlifting and the team from Bulgaria, one of the two strongest nations in the world, was sent home.

This call for expulsion was revived in Auckland after the disqualification of Subratkumar Paul, of India, after tests. However, Tania Ajan, the secretary general of the International Weightlifting Federation, immediately objected, saying: "In that case you can kick out

any sport because all the sports have their own problems."

Ajan said it was easy to single out any sport for expulsion because the problem of drugs in sport was so widespread. "But why this sport? Why not another sport?"

He said that weightlifting had strict random testing worldwide, although he admitted it was still not enough. "Drugs are the main problem of modern sport. Even though we are doing many drug tests, the present procedures are not perfect."

Weightlifting has always been particularly susceptible to competitors who take prescribed substances. A weightlifter's introspection and obsessive desire for self-improvement have always lent themselves to an interest in diet, food supplements and eventually to drug-taking in a

bid to improve performances.

Anabolic steroids, the bodybuilding drugs which help increase muscular bodyweight and aid competitors to recover more quickly from intensive training, became widely used in the 1960s, particularly in the United States and the communist countries, where weightlifting is especially popular.

Stimulants were also used to aid competitors on the day of competition, and when drug tests were introduced at the 1970 world weightlifting championships, eight competitors were found positive, including several medal winners.

Experimental testing for anabolic steroids, which help in the retention of nitrogen, and the utilization of protein, was carried out at the 1974 Commonwealth Games after

a breakthrough in analysis by Professor Raymond Brooks in London.

At the 1976 Olympic Games, the reputation of the sport received a savage blow when seven weightlifters were found positive, including three medal winners.

Although there were no positive tests at the 1980 Olympics, many competitors had now adopted a new strategy. Because hormone drugs are used primarily in training, weightlifters would take the drugs throughout the year and then cease taking them about a month before a competition.

They would then get most of the benefit from the substances but without always risking detection. In the period after coming off steroids or testosterone, the male hormone with a pure anabolic action, competitors might use

Human Growth Hormone (HGH), for which there is no accurate test.

However, the drug scandals continued. In 1983, Anatoly Pisarenko, the world super-heavyweight champion, was found by customs officers to have large quantities of hormone drugs in his baggage on arriving in Montreal.

Two years later, Tony Fitton, the British powerlifter who was third in the 1976 world championships, was sentenced to 4½ years in jail in California for trafficking in drugs.

Two months ago, Steve Pinent, the 1982 Commonwealth champion, was jailed in Aylesbury for supplying hormone drugs. Pinent was a link in a long and intricate chain for buying and selling substances which stretched across Europe and the United States and involved David

Jenkins, the former Olympic athlete.

Pinent bought drugs from Richard Crawley, a former member of Britain's junior under-23 squad, who was found positive for a hormone drug while competing in the 1983 national under-23 championships.

Tom Hawk, the British under-23 super-heavyweight powerlifting record-holder, died in a strongman competition in Stirling on July 3, 1988. There is a growing belief that anabolic steroids contributed to his death. When police searched his hotel room, they found hormone drugs.

Hawk trained at the Thames Valley College gymnasium, run by Pinent. However, there is no evidence that Hawk obtained the drugs from Pinent or the gymnasium.

Leeds raid union for Irvine

By Peter Bills

Leeds rugby league club yesterday completed the first part of their sloop on rugby union players, by signing Simon Irvine, the England B centre, from Headingley.

Irvine made the move into the professional ranks for a fee believed to be in the region of £65,000, spread over a four-year deal.

Leeds have therefore bolstered their recruitment of union players, following their capture of John Bentley, the Sale and former England wing three quarter, and Robert Ackerman, the ex-Welsh international, who joined them recently from the Cumbrian rugby league club

Whitehaven.

Leeds hope to complete the most expensive part of their rebuilding programme later this week by signing David Young and Tony Clement, the Welsh rugby union internationals. Young is said to be uncertain about the move although Clement is keen.

The move for Irvine, generally regarded as one of the more promising young England rugby union centres, had been masked by reports that Leeds were about to sign Neil Summers, the Headingley scrum half. Leeds recognize Summers' talent but wanted Irvine because, as Bill Carter, their club secretary, said yesterday: "There is a spot for him in the middle of our back division."

Carter added: "We regard Irvine as an outstanding prospect. He has quite a lot of experience in senior rugby and is only 22. We feel he can become a real success. He has been playing good rugby for quite a while. He is a nicely built lad for a centre and we think he will adapt well."

Bentley was the first player Leeds had signed from rugby union for some years. But if they clinch the capture of Young and Clement there will be a considerable gathering of former union men at Headingley.

Pakistan event plan

Islamabad (Reuters) — Pakistan are planning an international one-day cricket tournament later this year to which they aim to attract all the leading cricket-playing countries.

The commerce minister, Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat, said yesterday the tournament would be played at all main cricket centres, with some matches under floodlights.

Revenge hope

East German athletes will get the chance to avenge two significant defeats in the European and World Cup competitions by Great Britain when they compete in the Dairy Crest Games at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall on February 23. The Germans' strongest possible side is expected.

Charity game

Munich (AP) — The West German football champions, Bayern Munich, will play the Romanian World Cup team in a charity match on February 7 at the Olympic stadium in Munich, to raise money for needy Romanians.

Baby break

Oslo (Reuters) — Ingrid Kristiansen, aged 33, the world's greatest woman distance runner, is expecting her second child, on July 25, but expects to compete at next year's world championships.

Car backing

The German Open golf championship will be sponsored for the next three years by the Swedish car company Volvo.

Griffiths's job

Caroline Griffiths has been elected chairman of the Women Professional Golfers' European Tour.

Cocooned team refusing to accept reality

From Richard Streeton, Bloemfontein

As reports of bloodshed and violence in the city centre and nearby townships multiplied yesterday, it seemed obscene that the root cause of the trouble, a cricket match, should be allowed to continue.

The contrast was stark and incredible: Mike Gatting and his England XI and their South African opponents could hear a peaceful demonstration against them going on out of sight behind the pavilion; that was all; otherwise, they have not been affected one iota as the situation has rapidly deteriorated.

This controversial tour, however, is not an instance of cricket taking place under siege, at least not in the sense that the 1969-70 South African rugby tour to Britain was disrupted. The demonstrators this time have been unable to get into a cricket ground, let alone stop play, and they have not been able to enter the team's hotel.

The South African police, complete with their dogs, guns and tear gas, have made sure of that. Gatting's players are trying desperately not to show the growing anxiety that must be gnawing at them. The party line from their spokesmen remains that they only wish to play cricket which should be divorced from politics. It is a trite, tired parrot cry from a group of naive sportsmen who are protected everywhere by armed guards and cosseted in their hotels.

The team's biggest and most constant complaint is that the media coverage in Britain has caused their families stress and worry. More than one wife, apparently, is having second thoughts on whether she should come out later as planned for a holiday.

The South African Cricket Union yesterday provided the players with faxed copies of British newspaper reports on the tour. Some pensive reading followed on the players' balcony. Whether there will soon be a waver or two remains to be seen; it is more probable that any action to abandon the tour would be a unanimous agreement among the team.

So far there has been no sign that any thought has been given by the players to calling a halt. Surely these cricketers cannot remain sufficiently insensitive to ignore reality very much longer even if the South African authorities can continue to summon the gall to do so?

On Monday night there were 69 arrests and 80 people were injured in a modern township, Manguang, only two or three miles from the team's hotel, as police broke up a National Sports Congress (NSC) rally in a church hall. The unrest continued yesterday with a police vehicle stoned and overturned; a further 40 arrests and numerous injuries followed as the batons, dogs and tear gas sprays were invoked again to maintain law and order.

Protesters planning to march to the ground found themselves thwarted by police road blocks. About 100 people did gather eventually outside the ground but they had no permit; about 20 of their leaders were bundled into police vans; others ran through the city centre frightening shoppers.

In the end, Paul Ntuli, the local anti-tour committee leader, contacted Dr Ali Bacher, SACU's managing director, for his help and a repetition of the weekend events at Kimberley took place. Bacher secured for the NSC legal permission to demonstrate peacefully outside the ground until 5pm with the police agreeing to keep a low profile. About 1,200 turned up and then it was back to the townships for an authorised public meeting to discuss future tactics.

Earlier, Bacher reminded us that the right to protest on political issues had the backing of the Government: "Please remember that protests are a new phenomena for us in South Africa. It is a learning experience that we are going through." SACU still says that it cannot be held responsible for any fracas in townships, however much they obviously regret that it is happening.

SACU, which has already sold 80,000 tickets for the coming representative games, believed that the tour was essential if cricket standards were to be maintained. It hoped that any opposition would be won over by its cricket development scheme in the townships.

Sadly for some extremely well-intentioned men, it has all gone horribly wrong. As the world's media start to gather for Nelson Mandela's release — there is as much talk in the press box of shared experiences in Tiananmen Square and Romania as there is about cricket — it still remains inexplicable that the South African Government allows the tour to continue to lurch along a rocky path.

England bowlers harshly treated

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Barbados

In these impressive early days of a tour, when all things remain possible, the smallest occurrences will disproportionately comfort or depress. Yesterday's early bulletins seemed almost uniformly encouraging to an England side engaged in its first competitive match of the tour. Old hands, however, were not taken in.

News that Viv Richards and Malcolm Marshall remain troubled by injuries was followed by visual evidence of truth in the dubious rumours of slower pitches around the Caribbean. Further succour arrived in the shape of a vibrant 78 by Nasser Hussain, the most contentious of all England's tour selections, with a talent precocious enough to be abused. Then came a salutary session for England's wayward bowlers as the young Barbadian openers, Michael Innes and Phil Wallace, put on 83 in 16 overs.

Until then the tangible debts were confined to the predictable. Allan Lamb, whose calf muscle continues to cause concern, will definitely miss the initial first-class game, starting in St Kitts on Friday. Ricky Elcock can also be discounted. Friday's opponents, the Leeward Islands, were yesterday crowned as champions of the Caribbean for the first time. They have won all four of their Red Stripe Cup games despite the absence of Richards, who broke a finger on the first day of the season.

Richards has confirmed he will miss the game against England, but it would have been more surprising if he had played. He has made a tradition of being indisposed for fixtures against touring teams, as if their anonymous nature affronts him. It will worry the West Indian selectors more that Marshall, already the victim of back spasms this season, now has an arm injury.

Nothing, however, could invite disaster more readily than for England to start imagining the collapse of the opposition. Richards has per-



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